Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 42 | FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Are you in favor of Japanese lawmakers' plan to relocate U.S. troops from Futenma, Japan to the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Unique Cruise

From its 103-foot mast, its American flag sail, to its all-aluminum hull, the *Stars and Stripes* is truly a unique ship.

Local...Page 18

Human Shields

Taliban fighters holding out in Marjah are increasingly using civilians as human shields, firing from compounds where U.S. and Afghan forces can clearly see women and children on rooftops or in windows.

Asia...Page 21

Guinea Pork

A South American research group says it may have found another way to fill hungry bellies: with guinea pigs.

Off the Wall...Page 23

CNMI yearns for more economic benefits from US military buildup

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government wants the U.S. military to do more to provide economic benefits to, and mitigate social impacts on, the CNMI as a result of the $15- to $20-billion military buildup mainly in Guam.

These are key points in the CNMI

See ECONOMIC on Page 4

Inconsistencies in ARRA money reporting for CNMI

Feds say $84M, Commerce says $97M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Federal and local reporting on the amount of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money so far awarded to the CNMI since early 2009 show discrepancies amounting to millions of dollars.

Ada

The federal tracking agency, recovery.gov, reported that the CNMI has so far been awarded over $84 million in ARRA money as of Dec. 31, 2009.

Recovery.gov's data covers the second reporting period

See ARRA on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Junior State of America's Matthew Randazzo and Elliott Nguyen right after a meeting at Sablan's office in Susupe yesterday morning. Randazzo and Elliott talked about the ongoing recruitment of high school juniors in the CNMI for the JSA Summer School Program at some of the top universities across the country. This year, six full scholarships have been confirmed for the CNMI, which is also trying to raise some $50,000 to send 10 more students. The CNMI has so far sent 348 students to the program over 17 years. Inset, Randazzo, right, gestures as he and Nguyen, left, brief CNMI government officials and reporters about the ongoing recruitment of high school juniors in the CNMI for the JSA Summer School Program at some of the top universities across the country.

FOR IMMIGRATION PURPOSES

NMI not yet fully part of US—Munson

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI is not yet fully a part of the U.S. for immigration purposes because of the federalization transition period exceptions, according to U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson yesterday.

Munson said although the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (federalization law) seeks to eventually make the CNMI "a part of the U.S. for

See IMMIGRATION on Page 5

Ogumoro

Ogumoro is new DPS deputy commissioner

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI range master Ambrosio T. Ogumoro has been appointed as deputy commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

DPS spokesman Eric F. David said yesterday that DPS commissioner Santiago

See OGUMORO on Page 5

Munson closes 2 tourists' lawsuit over plane crash. PAGE 2

Two CNMI lawyers recommended to White House to replace Munson. **PAGE 3**

One For Me
&
One For My Honey!
Sign up for two plans starting at $20
and get your 2nd phone for FREE!
Some conditions apply. New activations only. 24 month contract required.
iCONNECT
www.iconnectsaipan.com / Guam - Saipan Office 888.8888

Local

Munson closes 2 tourists' lawsuit over plane crash

Tinian Dynasty, victims settle case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court yesterday dismissed a lawsuit filed by two Japanese tourists who were among seven passengers on a Piper Cherokee aircraft that were injured when the plane crashed on a farm on Saipan in 2006 while en route to Tinian.

Pursuant to a settlement agreement, the U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson dismissed the lawsuit filed by Tomoyuki Nagata and Dr. Jun Takimoto.

Takimoto's wife, Mayumi Takimoto, and their minor daughter, Sali Takimoto, joined in the lawsuit, seeking payment for damages.

The plaintiffs sued for negligence the pilot and other claims the pilot, Brent J. Hinkemeyer, Taga Air Charter Services Inc., and Tinian Dynasty Hotel Inc., Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd.

Munson said the lawsuit is dismissed as to all claims against all defendants.

Munson said Hong Kong Entertainment Overseas Investments Ltd. is the signatory on behalf of all defendants.

"The parties shall fulfill the terms of the settlement agreement. Each party shall bear its own costs, fees, and expenses of litigation," the judge said.

Munson

According to the stipulation signed on Feb. 11, 2010 by plaintiffs' counsel, Richard W. Pierce, and defendants counsel, Anthony Long, the parties assert that they have reached settlement agreements.

The parties agreed to dismiss all claims against all defendants, with each party to bear its own costs, fees, and expenses of litigation.

The court also approved the settlement involving the child. The settlement document was sealed.

Pierce stated in a motion that pursuant to the settlements, Tinian Dynasy was to make seven installment payments each to Nagata and Takimoto.

Pierce said the settlements seek a balloon payment of ¥88.350,000 to Takimoto and ¥73,100,000 to Nagata.

He said under the settlements, another ¥20,000,000 to Nagata would be paid in monthly installments of ¥200,000 beginning June 5, 2008, with the final payment being due Oct. 5, 2016.

On Aug. 11, 2006, the airplane, piloted by Hinkemeyer, crashed into a farm in Upper Dandan, bursting into flames and destroying the airplane. The pilot and six passengers survived. Tinian Dynasty reportedly leased the plane at the time. The other passengers also filed separate lawsuits.

NMC hires consultant to conduct wage study

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An off-island consultant was contracted by the Northern Marianas College to complete two specific tasks—revise the college's personnel policies and complete a wage study for all its employees.

This was disclosed by the NMC Board of Regents personnel committee yesterday during its first special meeting with college representatives and staff.

Although the contract was confirmed, the amount of the contract was not disclosed during the meeting.

Human Resource manager Michelle Joab said NMC has an existing consulting contract with Frank Gibson, who reportedly completed one of the two projects.

"He has done the personnel policy revision…but we have yet to review it because that's a document that has not been provided to the committee [during the time of Dr. Fernandez]," Orsini told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that it was only recently that he was made aware about the consultant's completed work.

Orsini's committee is presently collaborating with the college governance bodies in the revision of the current personnel regulations. But he admitted that this is entirely separate from the consultant's proposal because they were not aware of it.

"This is an entirely different proposal because during the

See NMC on Page 4

Planning a weekend getaway? Or any other day?
CALL US OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION.
CHALAN KANOA BEACH HOTEL
P.O. Box 500356, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7829 Fax.: 234-6534
Website: www.ckbeachhotel.com
E-mail:ckbc@ite.net or ckbc1@ite.net

Two CNMI lawyers recommended to White House to replace Munson

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan said yesterday that he recommended two CNMI lawyers for consideration by the White House which has yet to name a replacement for retiring U.S. District Court for the NMI Alex R. Munson.

Munson, 68, notified President Barack Obama in November of his intention to retire effective Feb. 28, 2010.

Sablan, however, refused to divulge the lawyers he recommended to the White House.

District court judges are appointed by the U.S. president, with the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate to 10-year terms or until a successor is chosen and qualified.

Sablan said the two are "residents of the CNMI" but couldn't say whether they are currently government or private lawyers. He didn't say whether they are indigenous CNMI residents.

"I prefer that it is someone from the Northern Mariana Islands… I also think that we need to start promoting our people here. We have many qualified individuals here, some of them happen to be Chamorros and Carolinians," he said.

Sablan, the CNMI's first non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress, said his submission of two names instead of one was suggested by U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii.

"He's the senior senator in the Pacific. We turn to him for this thing in the Senate. Anyone who is selected will need Senator Inouye to guide them through the confirmation process so obviously (this is) out of courtesy to the gentleman," he said.

Munson has been in the CNMI for 28 years, having arrived on Saipan on Sept. 1, 1982, to serve as chief justice for the High Court of the Trust Territory. He succeeded Alfred Laureta, who was the first Territorial District Judge for the District Court of the NMI from 1978 to 1988.

Then-President Ronald Reagan nominated Munson to be the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI in 1988. The U.S. Senate confirmed him.

Then-President William Clinton nominated Munson for a second 10-year term in 1998. The Senate approved the nomination.

'CNMI's own'

Sablan, at the same time, said he will be asking the federal government to establish federal law enforcement agency units solely for the CNMI, including a U.S. Attorney, a Public Defender, and a U.S. Marshal.

"We are looking into it. It may not happen immediately. It's not a law, it's just a policy. The traffic here is not that great enough yet to justify our own U.S. Attorney's Office but eventually… we'll press the U.S. Department of Justice to extend those things here, and to have a U.S. Attorney solely for the Northern Marianas," he said.

For example, the current U.S. attorney for Guam and NMI,

See TWO on Next Page

WIA director, two others reappointed

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reappointed yesterday Workforce Investment Agency executive director Edith Deleon Guerrero, Scholarship Office administrator Merissa S. Rasa, and Special Assistant for Youth Affairs Michael Manglona.

The three reappointments do not need the advice and consent of the Senate.

So far, Fitial reappointed and appointed nine Cabinet officials needing Senate confirmation, including the heads of Public Safety, Commerce, Lands and Natural Resources, Public Lands, Public Works, Personnel Management, and Community and Cultural Affairs, Corrections, as well as Public Defender.

The governor has yet to name the secretaries of the Departments of Finance, Public Health, and Labor, as well as attorney general, for his second term in office.

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations will start conducting public hearings on the Cabinet appointees on March 2.

MPLT trustee

In related news, Senate EAGI Committee chairman Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) announced yesterday that a public hearing on Fitial's appointment of Melchor Mendiola Jr. to the Marianas Public Lands Trust Board of Trustees is set for Feb. 22 at 1pm in the Senate chamber on Capital Hill.

Cruz invited as witnesses to the public hearing on Mendiola's appointment the chairman and members of the MPLT board of trustees, a representative from the Office of the Attorney General, acting Finance Secretary Bob Schrack, acting Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, and private citizens. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

PauPau BAR
Specials
at Palms Resort Saipan
Relax and Unwind
Happy Hour
50% off on beverages
(excluding bottles)
Happy Hour
5:00 pm ~ 7:00 pm
Open Nightly
5:00 pm ~ 10:30 pm
Feeling Hot! Hot! Hot!
Fusion Mexican Dinner Buffet
Every Wednesday
Enjoy a sumptuous Fusion Mexican Cuisine with delicious selection with all you can drink Miller Draft and Tequila.
$38.00 per person $19.00 child 6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm
Fusion Indian Dinner Buffet
Every Thursday
Experience a variety of Indian Cuisins including bottomless mazala indian tea, iced tea, and soda.
$38.00 per person $19.00 child 6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm
Ladies Night
Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday
Ladies can enjoy a full pitcher of cocktail, finger food, 50% off for all the ladies (menu price) and enjoy live entertainment
PauPau Bar & Terrace 7:00 pm ~ 11:00 pm
Live Entertainment by Maggie Naputi
Every Friday 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
The Palms on PauPau Beach
Relax and Unwind
For more information or reservaiton, please call 322-3311.

Ex-garment worker missing for over a year now

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former garment worker who was reported missing in January 2009 has not been located until now, according to the NMI Crime Stoppers Program yesterday.

Crime Stoppers coordinator Jason Tarkong said they are asking community's assistance for any information leading to the discovery of Mr. Renhong Zhao.

Tarkong said Zhao, a Chinese national, was reported missing to DPS by his brother on Feb. 22, 2009.

Tarkong said the brother last saw Zhao at his house in San Antonio on Jan. 6, 2009. At the time, Zhao had just returned from fishing.

The brother filed a missing person complaint after several attempts to locate him were unsuccessful.

Zhao, 46, is described as being of slim build.

"DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau is asking the public's assistance in providing any information leading to the discovery of Mr. Zhao," Tarkong said.

Tarkong said he can be reached at 664-9026, but anyone who wants to be anonymous may provide information to the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272.

Zhao was a former employee of the Marianas Garment Manufacturing that ceased active operation in December 2008. The factory officially closed on Feb. 7, 2009.

A fire broke out at MGM's factory in Chalan Piao in July 2008. Arson investigators determined that the cause of fire was accidental.

In March 2006, the Department of Labor found a construction company, CWM Inc. and its owner, Chen Binru, liable to pay a total of $240,046 to their 27 workers and sanctioned both to pay $70,000 for non-payment of wages and illegal deductions. One of the workers named Renhong Zhao was awarded $8,784. It was not clear, however, whether it was the same Zhao who has been missing.

ECONOMIC

From Page 1

Military Integration Management Committee's 12-page official comments and position on the military buildup's draft environmental impact statement, as the deadline for comments closed yesterday.

Comments submitted to the draft EIS can help shape how Guam and the CNMI will be affected by the planned expansion and construction of military facilities here.

The buildup involves the relocation of more than 8,000 Marines and their 9,000 dependents from Okinawa, Japan to Guam, the construction of facilities for recurring aircraft carrier visits, the development of an Army air and missile defense facility on Guam, and more Marine training facilities on Tinian.

"We welcome the military buildup in our region in whatever capacity the U.S. military deems appropriate and acceptable as long as the mitigation effects are in direct proportion to the proposed actions," the CNMI government said.

MIMC is the central agency in the CNMI dealing with issues related to military buildup in the region.

Its policy committee is comprised of the CNMI's top elected officials led by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial who serves as chairman, along with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Saipan), House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), and all the four mayors.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) separately said yesterday that he will also be writing a letter to the U.S. military raising his concerns on the proposed buildup, including socio-economic and environmental impacts.

"Several comments propose actions that provide an economic benefit to offset the lack of economic opportunity that was initially envisioned during the early scoping session. These are in contrast to the potential loss of access and economic opportunities eliminated by securing two-thirds of the island (Tinian) for training and restricting access and use. The remaining deal with impacts that were not addressed nor had any mitigation proposed," MIMC said.

Besides MIMC, other CNMI entities that have submitted official comments on the draft EIS include the Tinian Chamber of Commerce and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The three major entities in the CNMI support the military buildup but raised socio-economic concerns, and pointed to too few mitigation measures to offset losses or negative impacts.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce for example, said that while the U.S. military has identified a number of "costs" to the CNMI as a result of the military buildup, it has not identified "any real benefits" to the community.

A few jobs and economic benefits, lack of local contracts, strain on roads, airport, harbor and other civilian infrastructure, an end to leaseback grazing permits, restricted access to tourist sites, environmental contamination, and introduction of brown tree snakes and other invasive species are among the specific concerns raised by CNMI entities.

"The CNMI MIMC understands that the proposed military actions are complex projects involving multiple components of the U.S. Marine Corps, Army, and Navy. While the Draft Environmental Impact Statement offers much needed answers to the proposed military build-up in our region, the lack of mitigation measures for the CNMI are of great concern," it said.

The CNMI government also expressed commitment to working together with Guam to benefit the entire region.

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho has asked the U.S. military to delay until after 2014 the buildup to better prepare for it, a position respected by the CNMI government.

Besides the military buildup in Guam, the CNMI's Tinian is also being considered a relocation site for thousands of Marines from the First Marine Aircraft Wing aviation command at Futenma in Okinawa, according to three Japanese lawmakers who briefly visited Saipan on their way to Guam last week.

TWO

From Page 3

Leonardo Rapadas, is based on Guam and oversees both U.S. territories.

"Rapadas has assistant U.S. attorneys but we want to have our own (U.S. attorney) but I'm also cognizant that this requires money… It's a matter of caseload right now," he said, adding that his office has already done research on this matter.

NMC

From Page 2

time when Dr. Fernandez was onboard she did not provide that document to us. We have not seen a copy of it and so my committee is now asking the interim president [Lorraine Cabrera] about that document to see what were the recommended changes," Orsini told *Saipan Tribune*.

"Whether it is line with our policy… we don't know," he added.

The committee chair disclosed that he was informed that NMC initially entered a contract with Gibson for the policy revision and after completing the task a new contract was signed for the wage study.

Orsini said the draft report was completed in December, just a month before Fernandez was suspended by the board on Jan. 12.

HR manager Michelle Joab reported to the committee that the wage study is due on March 31.

The consultant issue was brought to the committee's attention after it was recommended that they revisit existing compensation scheme at the college.

Orsini said that now that a consultant is working on it, the committee will closely look at the study and start from there.

"For me, it's high time that we look at this issue because we're dealing with higher education and we want to get and retain the best for our students' education. It's just a matter of bringing it to the surface. This is almost equal with health care … and education goes hand in hand with health care," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Orsini also pointed out the need to create a "clear classification" for personnel to come up with a fair salary schedule for all.

In acknowledging the present fiscal state of the government, Orsini said the college can explore some avenues to come up with the needed funding for salary adjustments.

He is expecting that the wage study would address both the faculty and staff salary issues.

Orsini is asking more information and data from human resources such as record of the last salary adjustment enforced at the college. NMC has a total workforce of 182, with 76 faculty members and 106 staffers.

ARRA

From Page 1

for ARRA, from October to December 2009.

CNMI Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, however, said yesterday that the Commonwealth has so far been awarded some $97 million.

The CNMI's tracking website, www.cnmiarra.net, reports over $88 million allocated so far by the central government.

"These (financial allocations by central government agency) refer to what has been made by way of notifications to these agencies. The dates are made from the time of notice until grant expiration, which differs from fund to fund," Ada said.

Ada, who is the CNMI central government's contact person for ARRA matters, said "timing" is the "culprit" in the discrepancies.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) issued a separate statement yesterday citing recovery.gov data reporting $84 million in ARRA money so far awarded to government agencies, non-profit groups, private contractors, and individuals in the CNMI.

Sablan's two-page statement noted the first anniversary of the enactment of ARRA.

Ada said the money so far advised on cnmiarra.net is the notification awards that the executive branch agencies have been given.

"This is not inclusive of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Public School System, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp.," he said.

Of the nine agencies on cnmiarra.net, CUC has been listed as allocated $3.380 million by the central government.

Received, spent money

Federal.gov data shows of the $84,313,902 so far to the CNMI, $15,805,537 has so far been received.

Ada, for his part, said the central government has over $51.538 million available to draw down, of which over $9.824 million has been received from federal agencies.

"The CNMI's total expense to date is $10,171,285. Please remember that although an award has been made, he amount that we have available is dependent on the grant disbursements, which differ from agency to agency," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail response to questions.

Sablan, the CNMI's first non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress, said the ARRA money creates jobs, and makes investments in infrastructure needed for economic development, among other things.

"I am very glad to see that money going to work now in our islands. About $16 million has been received by the CNMI already, and about $10 million actually spent. So the full economic benefits of the Recovery Act are still to come," said Sablan, who is currently on Saipan.

Jobs, agencies

Federal data also shows 138 jobs created and funded by ARRA money as reported by the CNMI.

The money awarded was meant for 17 CNMI agencies and entities.

The Office of the Governor has so far been awarded over $32.439 million, based on recovery.gov data.

The CNMI central government has also been awarded over $19.546 million and over $8.874 million. This is the initial over $28 million of a $44 million State Fiscal Stabilization Fund grant, which is part of the ARRA funding.

Some $33 million of the expected $44.4 million will go to PSS, while Northern Marianas College will get some $3.9 million.

The other $8 million will go to the Office of the Governor, which in turn will give another $2 million to PSS. It will also give some $5.5 million to the Department of Public Health, mainly on medical referral costs. The remaining $500,000 will go to the Department of Public Safety.

Recovery.gov also reported that CUC has so far been awarded over $5.1 million, followed by CPA with $5 million.

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has been awarded over $4.632 million, while the Criminal Justice Planning Agency has been awarded over $2.052 million.

Also awarded were NMHC, $1.963 million; NMC, $1.791 million; PSS, $1.723 million; DPS-Fiscal Affairs Section, $519,048; CNMI government, $292,719; DPH's Division of Public Health, $185,995; Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, $78,125; Winzler & Kelly, $54,850; Karidat Social Services, $44,350; and Engineering Solutions Inc., $3,660.

Sablan said ARRA funds allowed PSS to restore 99 teaching positions that had been cut over the last three years due to local budget reductions. PSS is also renovating schools long overdue for repairs.

On cnmiaara.net, the CNMI central government has so far allocated the following ARRA money: $44.433 million for the Office of the Governor; $29.039 million for DPW; $3.380 million for CUC; $3.147 million for the Division of Environmental Quality; $2.691 million for DCCA; $1.846 million for CJPA; $1.86 million for DPH; $1.212 million for the Workforce Investment Agency; and $600,000 for the Department of Finance.

$15.9M in direct credits for taxpayers

Sablan, in a statement, said in addition to the over $84 million in ARRA awards to the CNMI, another $15.9 million is being paid out in credits to individual CNMI taxpayers.

"In the short term, however, the money that is going directly to individuals is going to give the most relief. Especially the Making Work Pay tax credit, which is putting $15.9 million into Northern Mariana Islands paychecks over the course of 2009 and 2010, is helping families to pay their bills and boosting demand at local businesses," said Sablan.

Under the Making Work Pay Credit, individual taxpayers can receive up to $400 and joint filers up to $800. The money shows up as an extra $10 or $20 in paychecks through the year. The U.S. Treasury covers over the credits to the CNMI Treasury on a regular basis so there is no cost to the local government.

"Another important Recovery Act program that puts cash in people's pockets is the one-time $250 payment to seniors. According to the data I have received, 2,570 individuals in the Northern Mariana Islands received these checks – $642,420 in total," Sablan said.

He said individuals in the NMI also took advantage of the Cash for Clunkers program, turning in older, fuel-inefficient vehicles for new cars that cost less to run.

Sablan said the CNMI has been awarded $100,000 for a similar program that allows people to get a rebate when they swap an inefficient refrigerator or air-conditioner for a newer model.

"In addition to the increased demand for goods and services created by these programs for individuals, the Recovery Act is providing direct assistance for businesses," according to Sablan.

IMMIGRATION

From Page 1

immigration purposes" the transition period exceptions require the conclusion that the Commonwealth is not yet fully a part of the U.S. for immigration purposes.

The judge issued the opinion in denying the motion to dismiss the charges filed by defendants Yong Jun Li, Shi Guang Li, and Wei Kun Zhong.

The three were among 24 Chinese nationals arrested last Jan. 5 by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents for allegedly trying to unlawfully enter Guam on a boat.

Yong Li and Zhong, through their respective counsels Anthony Long and Sean Frink, filed a motion to dismiss or in the alternative a bill of particulars. They also filed a motion for additional discovery.

Shi Li, through counsel Burce Berline, joined in the motions.

The hearing was held yesterday. Long argued the motions, while assistant U.S. attorneys Eric O'Malley and Kirk Schuler presented their objections.

In the motion to dismiss, the defendants argued that because the CNMI is a part of the U.S. for immigration purposes their travel was within the U.S. and cannot be deemed "illegal entry."

After listening to the arguments, Munson announced his decision and stated that he would immediately issue a written ruling as the trial of the defendants was set for Monday.

In his written order, Munson said he has previously held that the CNMI was not considered "part of the U.S. for purposes of U.S. immigration laws" because U.S. immigration laws did not apply to the CNMI."

The judge said that, on June 1, 2009, the U.S. Congress passed the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 which makes the U.S. immigration laws applicable to the CNMI.

"However, the CNRA provides a transition period (that we are currently in) wherein, among other exceptions, the U.S. asylum laws do not apply within the CNMI and certain aliens may be legally present in the CNMI that would not otherwise be admissible in the U.S.," Munson said.

On bills of particulars issue, the defendants asserted that the information does not allege what substantial step or overt act they took in their alleged attempted illegal entry, nor do they state where defendants were attempting to disembark in Guam.

In denying the motion for bill of particulars, Munson said an attempted illegal entry charge does not require specific overt act allegations or other component parts of the offense.

"Accordingly the motion is denied because the allegations put defendants on notice of the charges against them and protect them against double jeopardy," the judge said.

Bill of particulars refers to a list of written statements made by a party to a court proceeding, upon demand of the other party. The list itemizes details of a claim or defense.

Munson denied in part, defendants' motions for discovery.

OGUMORO

From Page 1

F. Tudela tapped Ogumoro as deputy commissioner effective last week.

David said Ogumoro will continue to occupy his position as CNMI range master.

In a press statement, the new deputy commissioner said assuming the responsibility is not a new thing to him.

"However, understanding the sacrifice and to be proficient to do what's best is one of the many things that I will contribute for the betterment of the department," Ogumoro said.

David said along with Tudela, critical issues pertaining to different sections of DPS will be addressed.

David said Ogumoro has been delegated to oversee operational and administrative functions of the department.

"Commanders/officers in charge and supervisors within the department have been assigned to their respective units through out the Police and Fire Divisions based on their acquired training and expertise," the DPS spokesman said.

The reassignment of personnel, David said, is a result of wide range operational changes and also is an attempt to reduce overall costs.

David said the combined efforts between Tudela and Ogumoro is relevant in developing policies and addressing priority concerns to maintain and enhance the services within DPS and out to the community.

On Feb. 10, 2006, members of the DPS' elite Tactical Response Enforcement Team, with the help of some Criminal Investigation Bureau detectives, arrested Ogumoro at DPS on allegations that he beat up his wife and for illegal possession of a firearm and ammunitions.

In September 2006, Ogumoro signed a plea agreement with the CNMI government. He pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of ammunition. The remaining charges were dismissed.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja sentenced Ogumoro to one year in prison, all suspended.

In September 2008, Naraja vacated the conviction of Ogumoro. He also ordered the conviction record be expunged "in the best interests of justice and the public."

Naraja issued the order following Ogumoro's motion. The Office of the Attorney General did not object to the motion.

On Oct. 23, 2008, Ogumoro took his oath of office before Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo as the CNMI range master.

Upon his return as range master, Ogumoro told DPS personnel that "what's done is done."

"I would like them to know that I hope they learned something from it and need not be intimidated, and that I am here for them," he said.

Ogumoro and the U.S. government have also settled the lawsuit against Ogumoro filed in federal court over the alleged fraudulent transfer of his piece of land to his daughter. He denied that the transfer was fraudulent.

Weekend Prepaid Sale
February 20, 2010 • 10:00am to 2:00pm
XO Market (Middle Road)
island Cruizer
cool deals on wheels
SAMSUNG U340
$55.00*
[with $10 Cell Card]
[CDMA • Camera Phone]
SAMSUNG U350
$65.00*
[with $10 Cell Card]
[CDMA • Camera Phone]
NOKIA 6010
$40.00*
[with FREE Prepaid SIM & $10 Load]
[GSM Dual Band]
MOTOROLA W510
$99.00*
[with FREE Prepaid SIM & $10 Load]
[GSM Quad Band]
ONE PREPAID CARD FOR GSM & CDMA
Wireless Express Center (TSL Plaza, Garapan) on Saturdays
New Store Hours: Tuesday to Saturday: 9:00am to 6:00pm • Sunday & Monday: Closed
Available in Tinian & Rota on Fridays (CDMA Phones Only)
FREE AIRTIME! when using PTI & IT&E Long Distance Prepaid Cards
*Cannot keep number • while supplies last • No phonebook transfer • Credit cards will not be accepted • some conditions apply
IT&E
Life in Motion
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

2 convenient locations to better serve you!
HARDT EYE CLINIC
Beach Road Clinic
next to Megabyte, Beach Road, Garapan
235-2030
HARDT EYE CLINIC
Kagman Clinic
Kagman III, next to Kagman Postal and Kevin's Video
256-2020
HARDT EYE CLINIC
DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.
Using advanced technology combined with old-fashioned caring to provide unhurried and understandable exams.
Insurance plans and all major credit cards are gladly accepted

Winners of WSR science fair feted

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

William S. Reyes Elementary School announced the winners of its annual science fair yesterday with the top entries ranging from projects that changed mud to water, stalactite, hidden hues, long lasting battery, simple electric motor, mini green house, and the effects of molds.

Named top winners in the competition from kindergarten to third grade were Vincent Palacios, Michelle Bermudes, Cody Leon, Aries Gutierrez, Shen Hanna, Angelina Aldan, Jaivan dela Pena, Natalie Montano, Kobe Deleon Guerrero, Jonathan Capayas, Lloyd Tarope, and Jenikah Elayda.

For the fourth to sixth grade division, named top winners were Adrian David, Renz Yutuc, Ronnie Sto. Domingo, Shizuka Takayama and Caitlin Trasma, Peter Baek, Kenny Angel Diaz, Noshin Omar, Mei Lin, Carmela Famora, Mikhail Alcantara, Christopher Reyes, Lyances Aldan, Nathan Camacho, Nathaniel Montano, Erico Castro, Masrur Alam, Roselyn Tanghal, and Jim Lacsina.

MONETH G. DEPOSA
First grade teacher and event coordinator Dorina Salavaria checks one of the 55 official entries in this year's science fair competition at William S. Reyes Elementary School.

This year saw the addition of two new categories in local science fair competitions—technology and electronics and mathematics.

Technology and electronics and mathematics join old categories life science, physical science, earth and space, health nutrition, and medical science.

Dorina Salavaria, one of the event coordinators, described yesterday's contest as very overwhelming, noting the participation of all students from kindergarten to sixth grade.

Official entries were rated by a panel of judges which in turn selected 31 winners from all the categories.

Projects were judged and rated based on scientific criteria, creative ability, understanding, and technical skill.

Salavaria disclosed that top winners in each category will represent the school in next month's PSS statewide science fair competition.

Every year, PSS sends its statewide winners to the Guam science fair. A public viewing of the students' projects is slated today at the WSR campus.

Salavaria said the WSR's young researchers and scientists took a month to prepare for their projects.

She said the contest's objective is to enhance students' interest in applying the scientific process that include identifying the problem, formulating hypothesis, procedure, materials, data gathering, and conclusion.

Through the activity, Salavaria said students are also able to develop their resourcefulness, creativity, teamwork, and analytical thinking.

This year's competition was organized by first grade teachers Divine Dela Cruz, Laurence Cambe, Mary Jane Limes, Paulette Tudela, Martha Mendiola, and Dorina Salavaria.

Trophies for the winners were donated by the Pacific Amusement Inc.

Detonation to close Marpi on March 6

Emergency Management Office will be closing off the Marpi area on March 6 to conduct a detonation operation.

The Department of Public Safety and the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment Marianas will also be part of the operation and all three entities are advising the public, especially tour and dive operators, farmers, joggers and bikers, to stay away from the area during the said date from 11am to 2pm.

The general location of activity will be at the Laderan Laggun Cliff Line (a mile north of Marpi Landfill). The grid coordinates is 15 degrees, 16.11 minutes 0.0865 seconds North and 145 degrees, 49 minutes 0.3313 seconds East and 5,000 feet above sea level.

The only area that will not be closed will be Suicide Cliff, which will be the main viewing point for the detonation. Public access to Suicide Cliff is allowed only through the road leading up to the Far East Broadcasting antenna for viewing purposes.

DPS will set security posts to enforce and control traffic movement for safety purposes.

For more information, call DPS at 664-9022/3 or EMO at 322-8001/2. ***(PR)***

Prevent Wounds & Callus!
CHC Diabetic Foot Clinic
Save Your Foot!
Wednesdays
9-11 a.m. @
CHC Physical Therapy
Ask your doctor for a referral today!
Tel: 236-8327/8
FOOT CLINIC
will teach you how to prevent wounds & callus.
Foot Clinic Includes:
Physical Therapy foot exam & instruction in diabetic foot care
Dietician for education in blood sugar control & nutrition
Patient educator will help you learn new ways to cope with diabetes & complications
• If you have diabetes you are at high risk of developing a foot wound that could possibly lead to an AMPUTATION.

One For Me & One For My Honey!
Buy 1 for $159
Get the 2nd free!
i465 Clutch
Comes in red and black
Buy 1 for $129
Get the 2nd free!
i776 & i776w
Comes in chocolate & purple
Buy 1 for $179
Get the 2nd free!
i856 Debut
Comes in pearl white
It's a Sweetheart Deal only from iConnect!
Great plans as low as $20 monthly
Get two of our bestselling phones at one low price this February. Simply subscribe to two of our value postpaid plans from as low as $20/month.
Promo period February 1 - 28, 2010 or while supplies last.
Some conditions apply. New activations only. 24 month contract required.
Guam - Saipan Office 888.8888
iCONNECT
www.iconnectsaipan.com

Customers First TRIPLE J

SUPER FRESH MARKET

Customers First

SHOP & PAY LESS FOR MORE!

Feb.19 to Feb.25, 2010

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

FRESH MEAT

The Certified Angus Beef® brand is the only choice for remarkably good taste, but don't take our word for it. Let your taste buds decide.

A wide choice of premium Tyson® poultry and superb pork products are also available.

SHOULDER ROAST

Feature $2.99 per Lb.

CHUCK STEAK

Feature $3.59 per Lb.

NEW YORK STEAK

Feature $8.69 per Lb.

PORK ADOBO

$1.99 per Lb.

PORK LOIN BNLS ROAST

$2.69 per Lb.

RIB EYE STEAK

$8.79 per Lb.

T-BONE STEAK

$8.99 per Lb.

FRESH PRODUCE

Serving you with a smile while you shop for the freshest produce.

SUPER FRESH ORANGES

$1.19 per Lb.

SUPER FRESH RED POTATO

$1.59 per Lb.

SUPER FRESH ASIAN PEARS

$1.79 per Lb.

SUPER FRESH NECTARINES

$5.19 per Lb.

DAIRY

Enjoy shopping for unique store items in every aisle.

WESTERN FAMILY Extra Fancy Tomato 24 oz. **KETCHUP**

Feature $1.59 each

WESTERN FAMILY BATH TISSUE 2 Ply 4CT

Feature $1.89 per Pack

GUAM ROSE High Quality CALROSE RICE 50 Lb. Bag

Feature $24.99 per Bag

SHASTA SODA Assorted Flavors

$0.49 each 12 Fl. Oz.

WESTERN FAMILY MIXED VEGETABLES

$0.99 each

ROMA LAUNDRY DETERGENT

17 oz. Bag $1.19 per Bag

BETTY CROCKER COOKIE MIX (All Variety)

$2.99 each

WESTERN FAMILY 100% JUICE WHITE GRAPE

64 oz. $3.99 each

SAUVITEL AROMA SENSATIONS

Up to 30 Loads! $5.79 each

BAKE SHOP

We've got the best in freshly baked items!

Check out our FRESHLY SLICED DELI MEATS

PIZZA PAN

$0.99 each

HAM & CORN

$0.99 each

COFFEE & DONUT COMBO

Only $1.25

Freshly Baked! Fresh & Hot!

We Accept Food Stamps

Special prices are good until Feb.25, 2010 while supplies last.

WIC Participants are welcome!

We offer 5% Discount for Senior Citizens (on Selected Items Only).

Credit Cards Accepted

VISA MasterCard American Express Cards

& Wells Fargo Financial

PACIFIC EXPRESS Debit Card Service is now available in the Store.

WESTERN UNION yes! money transfer Available inside the Store.

Opens Daily: 7am to 9pm

Sunday: 7am to 9pm.

For more info, pls. call

322-0430

Email: superfresh@triplejsaipan.com

Taro resigns as NMC staff senate president

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College staff senate president Joyce Taro resigned her post last Tuesday, along with another member Jack Kiyoshi.

The two were elected as among the nine-member body representing college staff employees in December 2008.

The resignation of the two were confirmed by NMC officials during yesterday's special personnel committee meeting chaired by board of regent Andrew Orsini.

Orsini

Replacements for the two will be known today after a scheduled election of the members.

Taro, who is from the academic programs, did not report for work yesterday while Kiyoshi, an employee at the college human resource office, confirmed his resignation from the staff senate to the committee members yesterday.

Kiyoshi is also the president of the NMC Alumni Association.

The staff senate serves as the official representative body of all staff members and it participates in maintaining the integrity of the operation and academic processes at the college.

The senate also assists in determining needs, initiating and developing policies and mandates, and reviewing politics on administrative matters affecting the welfare of the college.

As of last month, the college had a total workforce of 182 for the Spring semester, with 76 faculty members and 106 staffers.

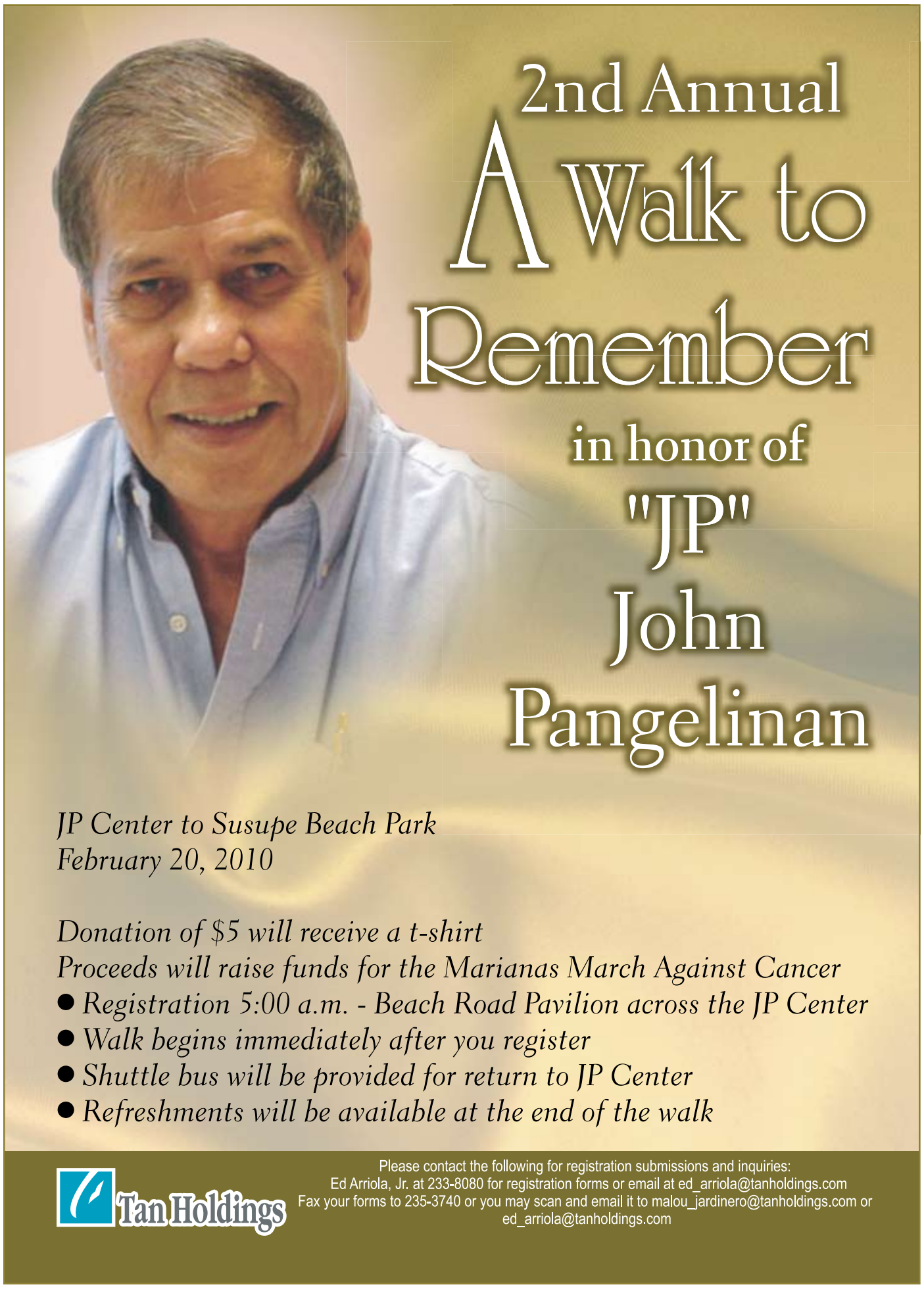
Orsini said the participation of the newly elected president of the staff senate is vital in the completion of the proposed policy revisions that the college is prioritizing now.

In the height of the suspension issue for Dr. Carmen Fernandez early this year, Taro was among the first to express the organization's full support to her leadership at the college, along with ASNMC leadership, and the NMC Foundation members.

In addition to the Staff Senate, other governance council at NMC include the Planning, Budget, and Evaluation Council (PBEC); College Council; Academic Council; Faculty Senate; and the Associated Students of NMC.

CCA meeting on Tuesday

Commonwealth Cancer Association will have its monthly board of directors meeting this Tuesday, Feb. 23, beginning 3pm at the Department of Public Health, Secretary of Health conference room No. 3. For more information about the meeting, call 236-8728.


2nd Annual
A Walk to Remember
in honor of
"JP"
John
Pangelinan
JP Center to Susupe Beach Park
February 20, 2010
Donation of $5 will receive a t-shirt
Proceeds will raise funds for the Marianas March Against Cancer
● Registration 5:00 a.m. - Beach Road Pavilion across the JP Center
● Walk begins immediately after you register
● Shuttle bus will be provided for return to JP Center
● Refreshments will be available at the end of the walk
Tan Holdings
Please contact the following for registration submissions and inquiries:
Ed Arriola, Jr. at 233-8080 for registration forms or email at ed_arriola@tanholdings.com
Fax your forms to 235-3740 or you may scan and email it to malou_jardinero@tanholdings.com or
ed_arriola@tanholdings.com

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 19, 1999

Local woes need local solutions, US panel told

The CNMI Legislature yesterday lobbied visiting U.S. lawmakers against move that will threaten self-rule provided under the Covenant, including a proposal seeking to slash federal funds for various capital improvement projects on the island. Legislative leaders also prodded U.S. House Resources Committee chair Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) and other members of the panel to support a non-voting delegate for the CNMI in the Congress and to increase the number of American investments here. Likewise, they expressed hope the visit will enhance cooperation between both sides as well as provide a clearer picture for U.S. legislators on the conditions in the Northern Marianas in light of relentless attacks in the past two months.

CNMI asks for help to restore cut CIP funds

Confronted with the worst economic slump in years, local leaders yesterday made twin appeals to visiting US lawmakers to help the CNMI battle a federal takeover attempt and restore a $16.2 million cut in infrastructure grants. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio told congressional delegates, led by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), chairman of the House Resources Committee, the implementation of such proposals would be disastrous to the island economy, already in grim situation because of the Asian financial crisis. "The economic impact of this loss will severely hurt us as we struggle to overcome our economic dilemma," the governor said at the opening of the CNMI's presentation of financial situation and labor and immigration reforms to committee members.

Feb. 19, 2001

CNMI expects $1.4M US grants for housing

The CNMI government is anticipating the release of more grants from the US government under various federal projects aimed at financing local housing and other development programs, according to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. Executive Director MaryLou S. Ada disclosed close to $1.4 million in overall federal funding has been earmarked to the Commonwealth by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development under its financial year 2001 appropriations. Of the total amount, $929,000 will come in a form of a Community Development Block Grants; $413,000 would be for Home Investment Partnerships; and $40,000 will be in a form of an Emergency Shelter Grant.

New OPA intern program complies with existing law

The realigned internship program of the Office of the Public Auditor is not only a boon to college students who want to become apprentices and interns who want to return to college, it also complies with a five-year old CNMI law that mandates the training of local interns for employment. This was revealed yesterday by recently appointed Public Auditor Mike Sablan. "We are very optimistic about this new program," Mr. Sablan said. "Not only are we opening up professional career opportunities, but we are also ensuring that the Office of the Public Auditor itself is in compliance with commonwealth law. Public 10-4, enacted in 1996, states the objective of the Intern Program is to "ensure that individuals accepted into the Intern Program receive the necessary job skills, training an/or education to eventually fill positions currently occupied by non-resident workers."

Feb. 19, 2002

DEQ mulls trail to Susupe Lake to boost NMI tourism

The Division of Environmental Quality is planning to develop a trail within the wetland surrounding Lake Susupe, so that the area-considered to be one of the most beautiful landscape on Saipan-would be accessible to visitors. The project would allow the public to view the landscape and the lake, as well as the rich wildlife inhabiting the area, which includes birds and turtles. Trail guides would be detailed at the area. They would hand out educational materials and brochures to would-be visitors. The trail, according to DEQ environmental engineer Brian Bearden, would be constructed in such a way that it would comply with the standards of the Americans With Disabilities Act, in order to accommodate tourists in wheelchairs.

DEQ: NMI dumps violate regulations

The garbage problem is one that stinks not just on Saipan, but also on two other major islands of the Commonwealth-Tinian and Rota. The Division of Environmental Quality said the two islands are operating dumps that violate existing regulations. "Both islands right now are operating dumps which, according to our regulations are classified as open dumps. They're not being properly managed," said Brian Bearden, who is in charge with the DEQ's Solid Waste Management permitting program.

Give Your Budget A Break!

Bargain In Every Aisle!

Bargains 10 to 23

Men's Skull Tee Shirts
$7.99

Round Neck Sleeveless Top
$5.99

Boy's Nylon Socks
99¢

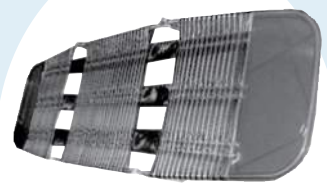
Girls Printed Shorts
$5.99

Baby Underwear 2 pc.
99¢

Oster Blender Plastic 10 Speed
$44.79

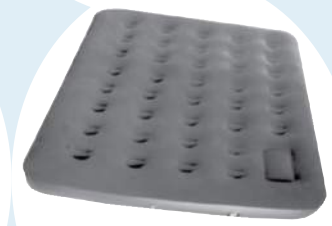
Presto Pressure Cooker 6 qrt.
$45.99

Rainbow Easy Hamper
$5.49



Chaise Lounge Steel Frame
$19.99

Car Floor Mat 4 pc.
$8.99



Flocked Air Bed Double
$22.99

Folding Step Stool
$10.49

Stacking Side Resin Table
$10.99

Melamine Salad Bowl 30 cm.
$1.59

Rubbermaid Storage Cube Set
$33.49

Banana Leaf Basket
Small ..... $ 6.99
Medium $10.49
Large $19.99

Supermarket

Miller Family Beer Can 24/12oz.
$27.99/cs.
12/12oz. $14.00/pk.
(Limit 4)

Bud Family Beer Can 24/12oz.
$27.99/cs.
12/12oz. $14.00/pk.
(Limit 4)

CSR Sugar White Poly 2kg/4.4lbs.
$2.19

Sapporo Ichiban Original 21/3.5oz.
$8.99 /cs.

Western Cake Mix Yellow 18.2oz.
$1.55

Pereocean Miniral Water 300ml.
$5.99/cs.

MATA Rose Calrose Rice 40lbs.
(All Sales are Final)
$15.50

Golden Monkey Jasmine Rice 50lbs.
$30.99

Folgers Instant Coffee Jar 12oz.
$8.69

Country Goodness Skim Milk 1 Ltr.
$1.19

Kingsford Sure Fire Charcoal 18lb.
$10.99

Quilted Northern Soft Strong 6 DR
$5.59

U.S. Produce

Look for these and more great savings throughout our s

Yellow Onion
65¢

Potatoes
65¢ lb.

Chinese Cabbage
75¢ lb.

U.S. Lemon
95¢ lb.

U.S Head Cabbage
75¢ lb.

Orange
89¢ lb.

U.S. Apple Fuji
99¢ lb.

Visit us for more savings at our Produce section!

Aiko's SNACK BAR

Accepts Phone Orders

Lunch is available Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please call 234-6445 for daily specials!

Frozen Products

LOW LOW PRICES

Chicken Leg Quarters 22lb.
$16.99/cs.

New Zealand Boneless Beef Clod
$1.99/lb.

New Zealand Beef for Stew Family Bag 7lbs.
$14.99

New Zealand Beef Shoulder Steak Family Bag 8lbs.
$15.99/cs.

Chuckwagon Hotdogs 16oz.
$1.19.

Gusto Smoked Ham Bone-In 19-24lbs.
$1.65/lb.

U.S. Oyster Whole Medium
$1.69/lb.

Come for more selections!

Joeten Shopping Center

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 - Tel. 234-6446/48 Fax. 234-5876

Thank you for shopping at all Joeten Stores: Joeten Shopping Center Susupe, Hafa Adai Shopping Center, Dandan Shopping Center

We accept major credit cards - We welcome Foodstamps - We reserve the right to limit quantities

We are not responsible for any typographical or printing error

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 42

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Taliban on ice: Pakistan helps capture a top insurgent leader; is it the beginning of a trend?

President Obama's investment in Afghanistan has delivered its first big dividend. The capture in Pakistan of the Taliban's second-in-command and operational chief doesn't just deal a major blow to the movement, even as a U.S.-led ground offensive is pushing it out of a southern stronghold. It also reflects a breakthrough in U.S. relations with Pakistan, which until now has been unwilling to target the Afghan Taliban leadership known as the Quetta shura.

The capture last week of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar means that Pakistan's military intelligence service turned on a militant who had been one of its clients for many years. While Pakistani military operations in the past few months have battered the Pakistani branch of the Taliban, Mr. Baradar's arrest should seriously debilitate, at least for a time, the Afghan Taliban forces that Pakistan has long seen as a hedge for its own interests. U.S. commanders have been saying for years that the war in Afghanistan could not be won without action against the Quetta shura and other Pakistan-based leaders. Now at least one of them has been removed from the battlefield.

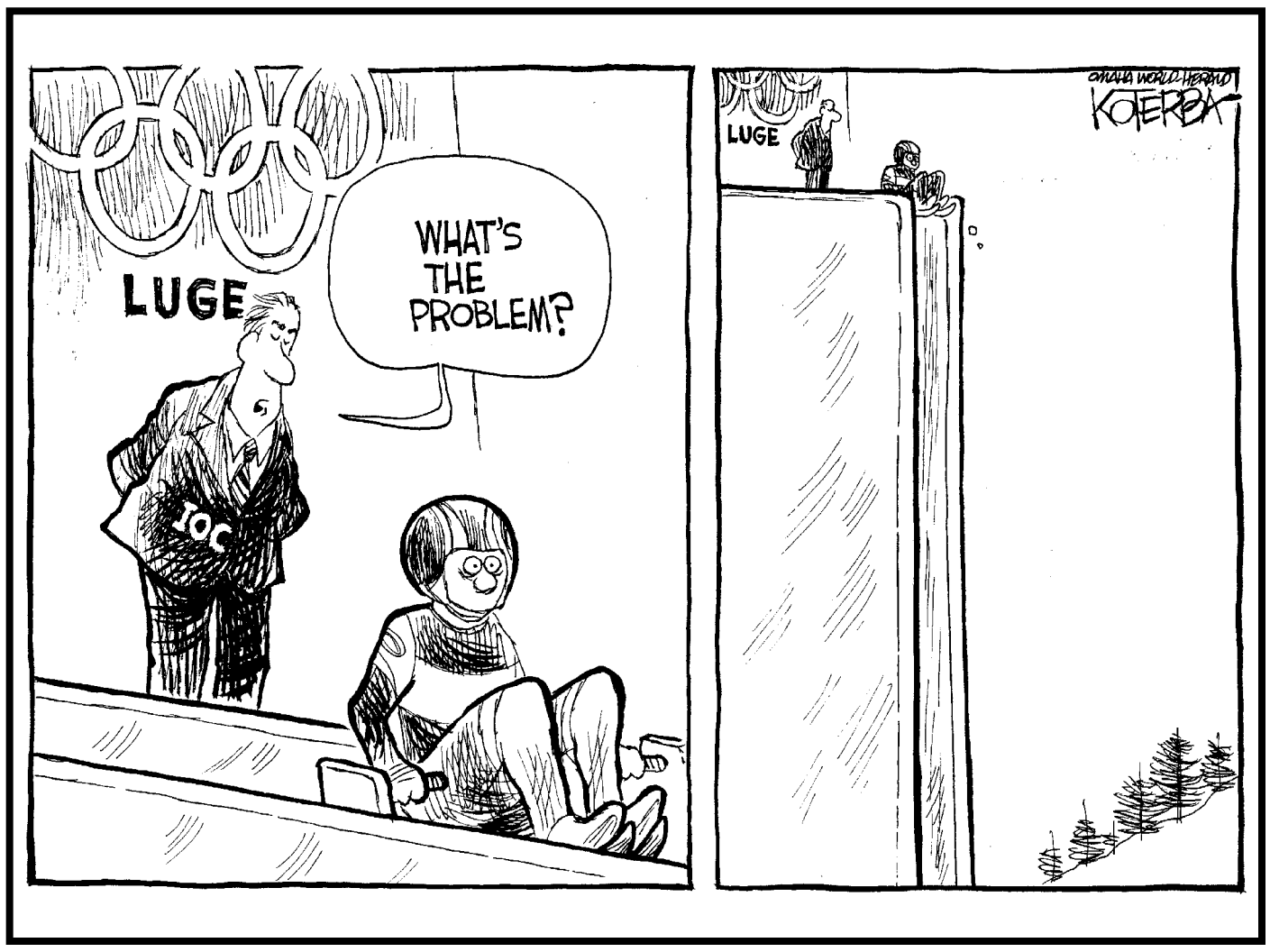
That Pakistan finally cooperated must be at least partly attributed to initiatives taken by Mr. Obama in the past year. Among them are the strengthened U.S. commitment to Pakistan, reflected in new civilian and military aid programs as well as dozens of visits by senior American envoys. There is also the aggressive use of drone attacks against Pakistani Taliban leaders.

In the past six months, U.S. strikes have twice eliminated the top leader of that faction, which has become a mortal enemy to the Pakistani elite. That could only raise the pressure on Islamabad's intelligence service to help deliver the militants who most concern U.S. forces.

The most important step, however, was Mr. Obama's commitment to the counterinsurgency campaign getting under way in Afghanistan, including the dispatch of tens of thousands of additional U.S. troops. Only by convincing Pakistani leaders that it is determined to defeat the Taliban and stabilize Afghanistan under its present government can the United States obtain cooperation in eliminating the movement's leaders and sanctuaries.

It's not clear that Mr. Obama has fully won over Pakistan's generals. His announcement of a July 2011 date for beginning a withdrawal has left some doubts about U.S. staying power. So far, Pakistan has cooperated in just one arrest; its military has declined to move against Taliban bases near the border. But Mr. Baradar's capture is nevertheless the biggest blow dealt to the Afghan Taliban leadership since 2001. If it is the beginning of a trend, rather than an isolated incident, then the odds of success for Mr. Obama's Afghan surge have just gotten a lot better.

(c) 2010, The Washington Post



Show the tax collectors just where you fudged it

By ANN WOOLNER
(c) 2010, Bloomberg News

Ann Woolner is a Bloomberg News *columnist.*

Hiding clever little accounting tricks deep inside corporate tax returns can save companies big sums, as long as no tax agent finds the golden nuggets.

It's a game of hide-and-seek that taxpayers take for granted. If a creative interpretation offers a tiny space for wriggling through a rule, squirm away. Concoct an arguable defense for paying the lighter tax the interpretation allows, and hope you never have to argue it.

If some poor agent of the Internal Revenue Service can dig through thousands of corporate tax return pages to find those questionable deductions and figures the potential payoff makes it worthwhile to challenge them, fine.

That is about to change if a rule proposed by the IRS sticks. The nation's tax collector has the radical idea that companies should point government snoops to every dubious tax break they claim.

The rule would force businesses to list on their returns every "uncertain tax position" they are taking and say how much it would cost the company if the IRS successfully challenged the claim.

It would force the companies to hand over maps to hidden treasures and state the value of the gold that lies within the chest. That way, they would be telling the government whether it is worth the effort to open up the lid or better to some other company's pot of jewels.

The rule is probably constitutional, Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination notwithstanding. The rule wouldn't require a company to testify against itself in a criminal sense (although it's possible to imagine a string of events where that might occur).

But it sure sounds un-American. Or, at least un- sportsmanlike.

What is the point of hiring all those tax lawyers if not to find little hiding places for big money? And what is the point of the little hiding places if you then must erect a big, flashing sign adorned with huge dollar signs pointing the IRS to them?

There are those who claim that paying taxes isn't a game. The Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston said so last August when it ordered Textron Inc. to turn over tax documents previously considered protected by attorney-client privilege.

As for the new rule, IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman says all the agency wants to do is collect taxes with "certainty, consistency and efficiency."

At a speech in New York last month where he announced the proposed rule, Shulman employed a word meant to convey legitimacy, openness and democracy.

He called it "a major step towards transparency."

As a journalist, I think of transparency as a good thing, especially when I want it from the government. As a citizen, I don't think the government should get so much of it from me.

Not that I'm some sort of tax cheat, mind you. No, no, no. I don't even take questionable tax positions. In fact, as a tax- and-spend advocate, I hand over all I can to the U.S. Treasury.

Just to make myself clear, let me add that any audit of my returns would probably hurt Uncle Sam, who would have to give me money back.

Anyway, the IRS conducts an annual survey that says most Americans oppose tax cheating.

And yet, about 9 percent say it's OK to cheat "a little here or there," and 4 percent consider it fine to do it "as much as possible," according to the just-released 2009 survey.

The new rule wouldn't apply to individuals or to companies with less than $10 million in assets. But for those that are at least that large, they would have to lead the tax collector to the richest potential for boosting collections.

Self-reporting seems to be catching on. A new law in South Carolina requires any group that advocates overthrowing the U.S. government to register and pay a $5 fee.

Really.

It's called the Subversive Activities Registration Act. I think it more likely to sign up a few radical Tea Partiers or overzealous Confederacy worshippers than al-Qaida or the Taliban.

But I digress.

I'm all for everyone paying all their taxes and for the IRS collecting them fairly and efficiently. Tens of billions of dollars in business taxes go uncollected every year, which adds to the tax burden of those who pay every dime they owe. (Like me.)

Surely the IRS is understaffed for the task, especially considering the high-paid expertise that companies employ. So it's hard to argue against something that would let agents cover more ground more quickly and to richer result. Shulman says 25 percent of any large corporate audit is spent on "searching for issues."

It is also true that companies already must disclose to investors some of those tax positions under a 2006 accounting rule known as Fin 48. And the IRS wouldn't demand to know whether the business deeply believes it deserves the break or is merely gaming the system. Nor would some lengthy explanation be required.

So why does it seem like the IRS would be somehow cheating if it forced businesses to flush their dubious tax breaks out into the open?

It's because many of us think of complex tax collection as a hide-and-seek game. It's because the game is adversarial. A whole industry of lawyers, accountants and advisers lives on that assumption.

Besides, where's the fun in giving up the goods?

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Good Girls Don't'

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

We interrupt Saipan's economic circus, and its gaseous, steam-belching calliope of bureaucratic nonsense, to mourn the loss of a generation's voice.

So you'll permit, I hope, some indulgence of American pop-culture today. As a cultural crossroads, I figure it's up to Saipan to keep the record straight on certain points; after all, the state of Asia-Pacific relations may depend on it some day. And I've been drafted for the mission, since a Taiwanese graduate student, working on her master's thesis in English, asked me about the recent passing of American author J.D. Salinger, who penned the famous novel *Catcher in the Rye*.

Oh, that. Well, I don't really know. My English teacher liked it, and it is quite famous, but at the half-way point I swapped my book for a copy of *The Destroyer #6: Death Therapy*, which featured funnier jokes, lively beatings, and a generous assortment of groin-smashing karate kicks.

However, despite my status as a refined man of letters, the lady in Taiwan doesn't seem interested in *The Destroyer #6: Death Therapy*. Go figure. So we're back to this whole American generational voice thing.

So here was ours: The Knack, and its lead singer, Doug Fieger. Feiger passed away earlier this week at the age of 57.

The Knack was a California band, and they captured, perfectly, the essence of California carousal in 1979.

I remember the first time I heard their most famous song, "My Sharona," in September of '79. I had just moved to California from, well, from Hades itself, basically, and such was the fortuitous reversal of fortunes that it almost gave me whiplash. I was in high school. California agreed with me, and a matter of days after settling in to our new home I found myself behind the wheel of a Mercedes 450 SL convertible, with a beautiful Japanese gal (my new girlfriend and classmate) in the passenger seat, and with the wind whistling by as "My Sharona" blared from the radio.

I recall that moment as clearly as yesterday, because it was the first hint I had that things might actually work out. And, they did; my girlfriend (it was her Mercedes, she'd let me drive it) became a doctor, and I went on to do what I wanted to do. But had I remained back in the old place, I would have wound up like those guys, and that is a fate too wretched to contemplate.

So "My Sharona" was an anthem of promise and luck for me, and always a reminder to count my blessings and work hard. And, yeah, a reminder to have fun, too.

The Knack's other two big hits were "Good Girls Don't (But I Do)," which qualifies as an inspiring theme song, and it was counterbalanced by the opposite outlook, "She's So Selfish," which was about a manipulative tease. So, for scholars of the American psyche, or at least that part of it, you can divine it for about three dollars in MP3 downloads.

Yes, it was unabashedly pop music, a rock and roll slice of the teen-aged mind. It was hormonal, catchy, upbeat, and fun. It was not profound or pensive or deep. Nor did it pretend to be. Pretentious, it wasn't. That suits me fine.

The Knack seemed to fade as quickly as they had appeared, but that's OK for my pals and I; new songs marked new chapters in life.

That's the cool thing about pop music, it is like a little time machine: It can take you back to exact places at exact times. But it occurs to me that many of my favorites have met their demise. Patty Donahue of The Waitresses passed away in 1996. Robert Palmer, whose coolly suave and alluring rock music videos were popular in the mid-1980s, passed away in 2003. Waylon Jennings, Conway Twitty, and C.W. McCall are all gone now.

I must have oddball taste, since a surprising number of records I liked never made it to CD. In fact, this is how I wound up enrolling at eBay; I wanted to get some of the old music I remember before it disappeared entirely.

I guess someday music will be homogenized, delivered by satellite (it already is, actually) so that you hear the same thing in New York as you do in Chalan Kanoa. For all the supposed empowerment of the Internet, maybe mass media will get more, not less, powerful as gatekeepers to pop music and culture.

Oh, well. As the hero of *The Destroyer* series (Remo Williams) liked to say, usually before he'd pulverize somebody's cerebellum in a dark alley somewhere, "That's the biz, sweetheart."

Across the Yalu River

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Regular opinion page contributor Jaime R. Vergara joined the Beijing-Saipan inaugural flight late January and has sent reports of interest to the CNMI from locations in China where current CNMI residents are from.

The Tumen Jiang in Yanbian is the same Yalu River whose crossing by the fledgling Red Army in support of Chosun Koryo (North Korea) against the Allied Command led by Gen. Douglas McArthur, then United States head officer to occupied Japan, cost Mao Ze Dong one of his sons. Belligerent armchair warriors advising Presidents JFK and LBJ later used this Sino act to justify U.S. presence in Vietnam to stem the feared attempt of Communist forces to dominate the world!

No matter that the Chinese *Gòngchandang* who just waved off the ineffective and corrupt *Guómíndang* acroos the Straits of Formosa (now known as Taiwan) were not particularly happy with the continuing U.S. attempt to destabilize the Mao government, nor were they keen on the growing cozy relationship between American commercial interests and the unrepentant and still existing *Zaibatsus* of Japan, the industrial powers that armed the Japanese Empires' incursion into Manchuria, excursion in to the Pacific and beyond South China Sea, and acts of atrocities dramatized in the Rape of Nanjing!

It is not our intent to revise standard Japanese and U.S. history. It just so happens that I boarded a train on Lunar New Year towards Yanbian Korea in Manchuria amidst the flickering of red lanterns across city and rural homes from Shenyang to Tumen, even as the staccato bursting of fireworks increased in volume and frequency from evening to the early morning, and continued on into the first light of dawn.

I was surprised, as we barreled along the western side of the Changbian Shan that divides Manchuria from the Korean peninsula, to see landscape covered with snow; the train loudspeaker announced the opening of the Winter Olympics in Vancouver 2010, as it greeted everyone into the Year of the Tiger and the beginning of Spring Festival.

The frozen ponds, springs and rivers greeted my K-train night sleeper on approach to Yanbian's Antu, a major industrial center, Yanji, the region's airport site, and Tumen, the river plain surrounded by hills and *Chosungul-Hangul* signage that looked like a little Seoul in the '70s, were picture perfect of sceneries similar to Powerpoint presentations sent across the Internet during the winter season. Not quite the images of the nativity in January by Pastor Millie at the Saipan IUMC, but the landscape had the Christmassy texture common to Hallmark greeting cards.

The cellphone I picked up in Liaoning Province was unable to work in Jilin, so Icould not communicate with colleagues in Hunchun, a good hour away by bus from Tumen. Being New Year's holiday, shops and offices were closed. A few mom and pop stores were open for the day (run by Koreans, of course!) and after I mumbled my surefire *Hangul* sentence in my repertoire of greetings, *anyang hee chomusa sum nika*—did you get up rested—I got myself a 'hotel' room above the store for ¥20 ($3). At that price, I checked in without first finding out about the amenities, and by the time I discovered their absence, it was too late to back out without the couple who happily welcomed me to their rental would be disappointed, or worst, lose face! The $150/mo. Saipan fire and health hazards are luxurious in comparison.

When I finally connected with my Hunchun colleagues, I learned that family would keep them stationary for the day so I spent New Year's in eerily vacated downtown Tumen. The downside is that I had to relearn the Asian squat. With no running hot water and tenants go to a communal bathhouse a couple of blocks down the street for ¥20 that included skin rub and muscle kneading. I was already on two longjohns in the cold so I did not relish going down to the neighborhood 'spa.' I was given instead three large thermos bottles of hot water, and executed a careful crow's bath I learned one similar morning in the semi-arctic tundra of Canada.

The upside was that the room had TV and a radiator sufficient to keep one dry and perspiring in one's birthday suit without a shiver. Being in a minority autonomous region, however, and perhaps, indicative of regulars at my hotel, the TV only broadcasted programs from Kunming, Xizang, Zhejiang, Neimongol, and Yanbian, and others representing the 10 percent of China's non-Han people, along with scripts of their writings. I got my education on China's minority ethnic groups in a jiffy!

The cellphone I picked up in Liaoning Province was unable to work in Jilin, so Icould not communicate with colleagues in Hunchun, a good hour away by bus from Tumen. Being New Year's holiday, shops and offices were closed. A few mom and pop stores were open for the day (run by Koreans, of course!) and after I mumbled my surefire Hangul sentence in my repertoire of greetings, anyang hee chomusa sum nika—did you get up rested—I got myself a 'hotel' room above the store for ¥20 ($3). At that price, I checked in without first finding out about the amenities, and by the time I discovered their absence, it was too late to back out without the couple who happily welcomed me to their rental would be disappointed, or worst, lose face! The $150/mo. Saipan fire and health hazards are luxurious in comparison.

CCTV9, the English broadcast channel was not one of the 12 offerings. Happily, CCTV1, central China's news channel, was available. Thus, I got to watch some Vancouver 2010 events. Two events kept getting repeated. The first was China's entry into the pair figure skating short program. The renown Olympics' vets Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo performed to the maudlin music of the movie Titanic, which I found out to be universally known in China, the same way *My Way* is the second national anthem of Pinoys. Sang with Chinese lyrics, viewing it in my lonesome with inexpensive Tsingtao *pei jou* while tugged on the heart string by memories of masterfully renditions by a Shanghai *hu shi* in Saipan, I was a captive audience. Evidently, so was the nation as the skaters proceeded to set the standard in the ice for the rest of the participants in the program.

While the Chinese duo outscored everyone else, and two more pairs from China were in the 4th and 5th place, CCTV reported the other event where the female US NCAA players minced ice shavings off the Chinese contingent in ice hockey. (Who says there is no balanced reporting in China?) Anyway, it was still the third quarter in the game and the US had already plucked the proletarian puck out of the peking duck!

I could now see the sports planners in China designing hockey rinks north of the Great Wall for all the Zhongs and the Zhous to practice slapping the puck into the goal. It finally does not matter. Here in Tumen Jiang overlooking a sprawling military installation of North Korea, the authorities are trying to salvage the economic edge that once fueled this autonomous region of *Koryo Saram.* With the hallow unfinished buildings downtown Tumen, like our empty ones along Beach and Middle Roads, the road to recovery is going to be a long one.

Letter to the Editor

Recycling is a right

This is in response to a published story that calls for a total ban selling in recycling centers. Mr. Congressman, I think you should be aware that it is important to have us around here doing this recycling. The public deserves its right to dispose their waste including recycling them. The 45-day holding period is working good as mandated by our laws in place. I highly recommended you and the PUTC committee to look into more effectiveness within our existing law to deal with it. One thing I see missing in our enforcement's effectiveness is communication.

Furthermore, if you and the PUTC committee should have the time to come down to my recycling facility and get more understanding about how important we are here doing this business. I truly appreciate your call to discuss this issue and thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Eric A. Cruz
Ericco Enterprises/Basula Produkto

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

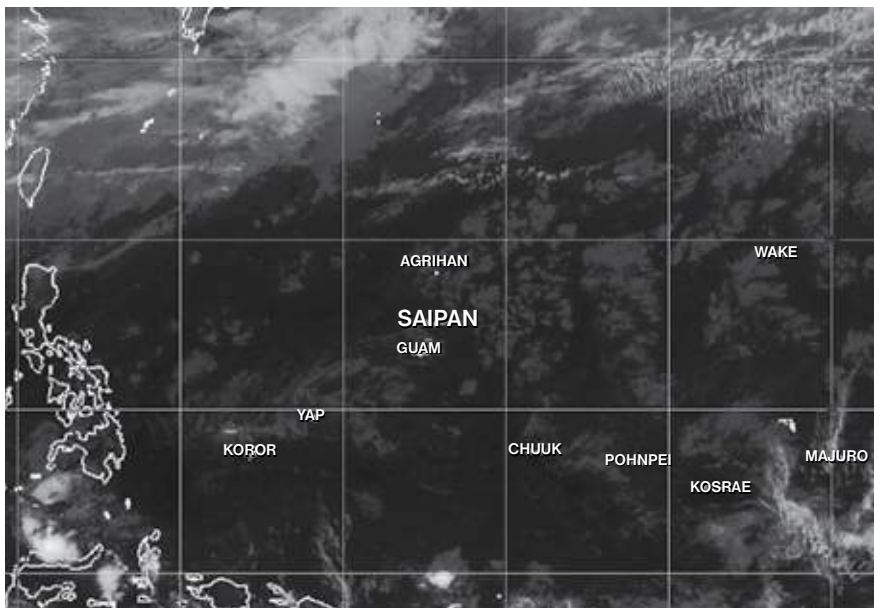
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼74
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny0	▲72	▼60
Beijing	Sunny	▲46	▼28
Hong Kong	Rain	▲61	▼57
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲73	▼65
London	Cloudy	▲41	▼32
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼52
Manila	Sunny	▲89	▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼64
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼51
New York	Partly Sunny	▲40	▼28
Osaka	Cloudy	▲41	▼31
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲43	▼29
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼26
Rome	Rain	▲62	▼54
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲56	▼32
San Francisco	Showers	▲59	▼49
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲38	▼22
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲48	▼31
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲43	▼27

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging winds south of a nearly stationary frontal boundary are producing clouds and scattered showers over the northwestern corner of the discussion area or north of a line from 22N130E to 23N134E to 21N138E to 25N148E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering widely scattered to scattered showers over Koror, Yap and the Marianas within 130 miles of a line from 16N137E to 12N132E to 8N134E to 12N144E to 20N149E. Similar weather also exists from southwest of Wake Island to Kwajalein within 85 miles of a line from 18N159E to 9N162E to 8N171E. A surface trough extends northwestward from 1N161E to 11N152E. Scattered showers are occurring near the trough axis over Pohnpei but south of Kosrae within 120 miles of a line from 3N163E to 9N153E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:28 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
10:28 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:19 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
11:22 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Sunday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM
Monday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Tuesday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:28 AM	10:25 PM
Saturday	10:09 AM	11:18 PM
Sunday	10:55 AM	
Monday	11:46 AM	12:15 AM
Tuesday	12:43 PM	1:14 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 28, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA8282	3:15am	7:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily via NRT effective Jan 25
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3, 6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA8281	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

7.6K persons provided food stamps in FY'09

Nearly 8,000 people benefited from the government's food stamp program in fiscal year 2009.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs acting secretary Melvin Faisao disclosed Wednesday that a total of 7,656 clients were served in the 12-month period, majority of whom are from Saipan.

The figure showed a significant increase on the number of clients served as a result of bad economy that caused many businesses to shut down.

The imposition of the minimum wage hike and the applicability in the CNMI of the trade quotas by the World Trade Organization were also among the factors.

Faisao disclosed that because of the increase in clients it serve, DCCA has managed to secure additional funding for the Nutrition Assistance Program from $9.8 million in fiscal year 2008 to roughly about $12 million in FY 2009.

The secretary said the funding level will remain as is this FY 2010.

Saipan Tribune learned that the figured of $12.1 million reflects a 12.2 percent increase over the previous amount program budget.

DCCA received $10 million for its food stamp program in FY 2008.

There are nearly 3,000 households and over 7,000 household members receiving food stamp benefits on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

According to the program's income guidelines, to be eligible for food stamps, the size of a family's benefit must be based on its income and certain expenses.

The poverty level is higher for bigger families and lower for smaller families. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

MIFICPA tax seminar set tomorrow

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants will conduct a tax seminar tomorrow, Feb. 20, at the Seaside Hall of the Saipan Grand Hotel. Registration starts at 7:30am.

The tax seminar will cover "Individual Tax Savings Tips for 2009" and will be conducted by Deloitte & Touche LLP tax services manager Edgar T. Aguilar.

Participants will have the chance to raise questions on tax matters to maximize money saving measures in filing their 2009 individual and corporate tax returns.

Registration fee per participant will be $12, which covers light breakfast and participant's certificate. Seminar materials will be provided. Renewal of MIFICPA's $5 annual membership dues will be collected on the day of the event only. For new members, the same fee applies.

Seats are limited, so for advance reservation and for more information, contact any of the MIFICPA officers by either text or e-mail: Marlon Estigoy at 789-7943 (marlon@saipan.com); Christy Villaflor at 989-9123 (villaflor_chris@yahoo.com; Aileen Indino at 287-0305 (aileenrindino@yahoo.com); and Melvin Malvar at 789-2101(mjmalvar@yahoo.com). ***(PR)***

Alana'ia
POLYNESIAN MUSIC & DANCE PRODUCTIONS

Alana'ia Polynesian Music & Dance Productions
By: Ed and Melia Johnson

- **Keiki Hula class (ages 5-11)**
  Mondays and Thursdays 3:00pm-3:45pm
  $40.00 monthly
- **Kaikamahine Hula class (12 and up)**
  Mondays and Thursdays 4:00 pm-4:45pm
  $40.00 monthly
- **Basic Tahitian (12 and up)**
  Saturdays 12:00pm-12:45pm
  $5.00 per class

To register please email alana.ia@gmail.com, or call 285-6353 between the hours of 5pm and 8pm.

Alana'ia Polynesian Music & Dance Productions
Now hiring Musicians
Specializing in Ukulele and/or Percussion.
Must be able to sing.
Open auditions on 2/20/10 and 2/27/10
1:00pm, World Resort Sunset Stage

GUANGDONG HARDWARE

GUANGDONG MILEI?
GUANGDONG BA ITO?

GOOD NEWS TO ALL TINIAN/ROTA CUSTOMERS:
To order just dial 288-2288, Payment can be made through credit card authorization, or cashier check, postal money order, traveler's check sent thru Freedom Air/ SN-5.

Kung Hei Fat Choi!

SPECTRUM:
SEMI-GLOSS INT. & EXT. LATEX $16.50/GAL | $54.99/4.25 GAL
FLAT INT. & EXT. LATEX (PRIMER) $12.50/GAL | $46.99/4.25 GAL
WATERBASE PRIMER $17.04/GAL | $76.99/4.25 GAL
GLOSS WHITE ENAMEL $18.79/GAL

PROMOTION:
FREE GIVEAWAY FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF PAINTS.
1) $100.00 & ABOVE: 2 SOAP HOLDER
2) $400.00 & ABOVE: SHOWER ROOM DOOR WORTH $132.00
3) $600.00 & ABOVE: 1 WATERCLOSET WORTH $178.00

THIN-SET MORTAR $8.40
JOINT COMPAND $17.50 5 GAL.
WATERCLOSET $86.00 & UP • SINK $33 & UP
NEW ARRIVAL OF CERAMIC TILES, 12"*12" $0.79/pc • 8"*12" $0.52/pc

OTHERS
CEMENT $6.50/BAG
DELIVERY CHARGE TO TINIAN-$3.00/BAG
HOLLOW BLOCKS (CMU) 4"-$0.50/pc • 6"-$0.60/pc • 8"-$0.70/pc
#4 REBAR-$708.00/BDL
#3,#5-#8 REBAR-$738.00/ST
GALVALUME ROOF TIN G26 FROM KOREA, BETTER QUALITY & RUST RESISTANCE
25%OFF FOR 2X8 UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR & TREATED
40%OFF FOR OVERSIZED AND DAMAGED MAHOGANY LUMBER

U.S. LUMBER
2X4X20 REGULAR: $6.60
2X4X20 TREATED: $11.30

UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR	UTILITY LUMBER TREATED
2X4X12 - $3.95	2X4X12 - $5.60
2X4X14 - $4.50	2X4X14 - $6.50
2X4X16 - $5.10	2X4X16 - $7.70
2X4X18 - $5.70	2X6X12 - $10.00
2X4X20 - $6.10	2X6X14 - $11.00
2X6X12 - $6.70	2X6X16 - $13.00
2X6X14 - $7.60	2X6X18 - $14.50
2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X20 - $16.90
2X6X18 - $9.90	
2X6X20 - $10.90	

5/8" FLYFORM:	$24.80/PC
5/8" PHENOLIC FLYFORM:	$27.30/PC
WIRE MESH 7'*50':	$65.00
WIRE MESH 7'*100':	$117.00

15% TO 50% OFF ALL DAMAGED ITEMS!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!

Never satisfied until you are
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:gddc@pticom.com
Business hours:
Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
AMERICAN EXPRESS MasterCard VISA

MICROL TOYOTA

SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

2006 LEXUS IS250 4DR SEDAN

Price $24,999

Stock: U09-084P • License: ACJ-843
Mileage: 32134 • Auto • Silver

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDAN								
T07-02319	2007	YARIS 4DR SDN	AUTO	40454	WHITE	ACK-663	11,999	
T07-04043	2007	CAMRY XLE 4DR SDN	AUTO	30389	TURQUOISE	ADU-252	18,499	
R10-002F	2006	CAMRY 4DR SDN	AUTO	35070	BEIGE	ADN-161	14,699	
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	6,999
GM VAN								
R10-001F	2005	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15 PAX	AUTO	64040	WHITE	BUS-1159	10,999	

WANTED

Looking at selling your vehicle, Microl is looking at purchasing used vehicles between 4 to 5 years of age and in good condition. If you are interested, please visit our Sales Department Monday thru Friday between 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

MICROL TOYOTA
Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Monday 8:00am to 5:00pm | Tuesday to Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm | Saturday & Sunday Closed
Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | www.microlsaipan.com

TOYOTA ACDelco

CellularPRO
Weekend Sale!
www.cellularpro.net (670) 234-2776
Feb. 19 - Feb. 20, 2010
20% OFF ACCESSORIES
$10 FREE Cell Card with phone purchase!
While supplies last.
$189 Motorola Hint CDMA
$159 Motorola Rapture CDMA
$129 Motorola W755 CDMA
$99 LG Rumor 1 CDMA
$99 Nokia 6205 CDMA
$79 LG vx5500 CDMA
$50 UTStarcom 7076 CDMA
$45 Samsung Smooth CDMA (Limited 1 Per Customer Only)
$259 Nokia X3 GSM Quadband
$179 Duet WG3 Touch GSM Quadband
$159 Nokia 5130 GSM Quadband
$129 SonyEricsson S302 GSM-Quadband

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

A LOOK AT PAST CAMPOREES

Naftan way

By OSCAR C. CAMACHO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The author is the Troop Committee chairman for the NMI Boy Scouts. As part of celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, the Saipan Tribune *is publishing a series of articles featuring past camporees and activities of the local boy scouts program. The following is an excerpt of a longer article.*

The sun had not awakened, and the earth's ground was as cool as the wind from the East. The silence was crowded with the distant roar of the sea. The sky was filled with twinkling stars and shades of clouds. The trees threw shadows and shadows of the bushes along the dirt road danced on the ground. The road ended and a narrow trail began.

The *tangantangan* trees stood as guards, a hundred guards and more and gave a sweaty odor. The leaves danced, the winds and the guards stood still on the softly padded ground. As the heavens opened up the day, so too was a clearing approaching. And the ocean came loud, and birds flew singing. The bushes were short; the trail got narrower and sharp rocks pointed towards the skies. The morning skies greeted the winds; and the oceans attempted to converse with earth. In the not-so-distant south, the island of Tinian flirted with a seemingly easy swim in a deep dark blue and expansive liquid cover. The sun decided to send its piercing rays, gently at first and welcomed. At the cliff lines, sprays of white refreshing salt waters flew. The ocean breeze helped cools the air and the turquoise and emerald colors congregated at the edge of earth; and at every motion, white caps overwhelm islands of boulders below.

To the east stands the wall of Naftan. Down below and lining up in a northerly direction is the crack on the earth. Naftan appeared to have pushed itself against a much lowered earth and stood nobly and regal. Crowned with many rich native fruit bearing plants with leaves of golden and pinkly colors. Along the wall and into the crack a trail as lush and sweet leads untiringly. The trees provided a canopy over the earth and the ground remained moist and the rocks wet and bulging like bosoms. The crack appeared to have taken and endured many abuses. War relics, coke bottles, alien objects, and unwelcome visitors had left unwanted deposits. The walls, ground, and rocks bear scars and time continues to sooth the wounds. Patches of moss and rotted wood and sometimes dirt and soil serve to wrap and cover the wounds of the earth. Rusted metals and burned glass and broken bottles littered a portion here and a corner there. A violent occurrence of a not distant past is evident everywhere; and the silence seems to be the only healing agent but endurance is obvious.

The trail climbed mounds of dirt; mountains of rocks, and the wall became the edge of this massive formation on the right side and below. Aga'Telangs, Paipais, Talisais, and Gaogaos lined the top of Naftan and protected the trails. Outside this grove, the Lasson Kattus and the Lantanas were ready to attack any intruder. The fight began and trampled bushes made ways but not without fierce bites, stings and scratches. The battle won and rest is assured on an opening stretch and familiar coral rocks and grayish stones stood still under the sun. The sweat was not but the sprays of seas carried on what windy Naftan Rock. Dwarfed *tangantangan* trees waited on the edges of the coral clearing and on the other side a two-lane trail made its way to old Japanese bunkers and leads to the point—N.A.F.T.A.N Point—and down below, three huge rocks excitedly protrude out of the ocean.

2010 models have arrived!
Ford
The 2010 Ranger
Best-In-Class Fuel Economy.
UP TO 27 MPG**
The Ranger offers both fuel economy and power. Choose the efficient 4-cylinder version for just running around the island or with the optional 4.0-liter V6 Ranger 4x4 and you can engage both axles at the turn of a knob. Ranger gives you what you want from a full-size pickup in a compact truck that's priced much less.
The 2010 Escape
So Much Fun. So Little Fuel.
UP TO 28 MPG**
Escape is a more perfect form of SUV – one that delivers sporty performance and great fuel economy. The New Duratec® 2.5L I-4 engine gets up to 28 mpg. Available in 2WD or the optional intelligent 4WD system. Power package, 16 inches alloy wheels and 5-Star NHTSA crash test safety rating all standard.
The 2010 Mustang
AVAILABLE SOON!
Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU
SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. **EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

NMC encourages SROTC before Army enlistment

Northern Marianas College continues to encourage individuals who express interest in the military to enroll in its Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps program for improved military position status and added benefits.

NMC students currently enrolled under the program may be eligible for full-tuition and merit-based scholarships to cover tuition, books, and living allowances once they reach the University of Guam.

Individuals who are able to complete the full four years of the program and graduate from UoG with a bachelors degree will become commissioned officers, immediately creating an elite status in the U.S. Army.

Benefits of going through the SROTC program include higher base pay ($32,000 a year once in the military), a guaranteed bachelor's degree in four years, various scholarship opportunities, and a monthly allowance of up to $500 while in college. Students will not be obligated to the U.S. Army until three years after enrollment.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Recently commissioned U.S. Army Officer Joe Sablan, second from right, during his commissioning ceremony held at the Aqua Resort Club's Raraina on Jan. 19. Sablan became the first active duty soldier of the U.S. Army to be commissioned in the Commonwealth. Also in the photo is the Northern Marianas College Dean of Community Programs and Services, Tee Abraham, far right, and some colleagues.

The SROTC program is facilitated by the Community Development Institute through the Extended Degrees and University Partnership Program and the University of Guam. Due to the growing number of military personnel and demand for improved education amongst military participants, NMC reestablished a previous relationship five years ago with UOG and the U.S. Army to deliver the first two years of SROTC military science courses that could be used to attain an officer career status in the U.S. Army.

Some of the SROTC course offerings through CDI include Foundations of Leadership (MSL101), Basic Leadership (MSL102), Individual Leadership Studies (MSL201) and Leadership and Teamwork (MSL202).

The courses aimed at establishing a framework for understanding leadership development, Army values, military science and officership. Students are also taught to develop effective oral and writing skills, first aid, military tactics, navigation skills and teamwork. Students are also eligible to participate in Field Training Exercises in which they get a chance to practice their classroom training live on the training battlefields or either Saipan or Guam.

"We are very fortunate that we are able to offer military science courses to our SROTC students. The benefits of going through SROTC exceed enlisting directly into the military immediately after high school," said NMC Interim President Lorraine T. Cabrera.

NMC currently has 16 students enrolled under the SROTC program and an instructor from UOG that facilitates the military science courses.

In order for students to qualify for military science courses, they must be a full-time NMC student and meet other criteria.

For more information on NMC's SROTC program, contact David Attao at 234-5498 ext. 1014 or John Manalo at ext. 1030 or visit the NMC website at www.nmcnet.edu. ***(PR)***

How is your baby growing?

If your child displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay, talk to your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider about it:

Developmental Health Watch
4 Years (48 Months) to
5 Years (60 Months)

- Acts extremely aggressively
- Is easily distracted and unable to concentrate on any single activity for more than five minutes
- Refuses to respond to people in general, or responds only superficially
- Seems unhappy or sad much of the time
- Doesn't express a wide range of emotions
- Can't tell the difference between fantasy and reality
- Can't correctly give first and last name
- Doesn't talk about his/her daily activities and experiences
- Seems uncomfortable holding a crayon
- Cannot brush teeth efficiently
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

You may also contact the **Special Education Program** at **237-3029** for a **FREE** developmental screening!

Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

Big Steps for Little Feet

CERTIFIED Used Cars

1 YEAR FREE SERVICE WITH USED CAR PURCHASE

DEALS OF THE WEEK

2005 Nissan Altima
STOCK # 5C179592
$11,995.00*

2006 Ford E-350 XLT
STOCK # 6DA49114
$18,995.00*

2008 Honda CR-V LX
STOCK # 8C029650
$20,995.00*

2001 Ford Crown Victoria
STOCK # 1X167270
$7,995.00* (SOLD AS IS)

2004 Ford Explorer XLT 4WD
STOCK # 4UB89287
$13,995.00*

SOLD

2005 Ford Ranger XL
STOCK # 5PB04608
$9,995.00*

SOLD

2007 Ford Fusion S
STOCK # 7R127179
$13,995.00*

2005 Ford Escape Limited 4WD
STOCK # 5KB01594
$14,995.00*

SOLD

2008 Nissan Quest S
STOCK # 6N100020
$18,995.00*

2006 Ford Fusion SEL
STOCK # 6R196428
$15,995.00*

SOLD

2008 Nissan Rogue SL AWD
STOCK # 68W146521
$21,995.00*

SOLD

2005 Nissan Frontier SE 4x4
STOCK # 5C400451
$20,995.00*

Claudia T. Adriano
Sales Consultant
Visit or call 234-5562
Ext.123

2008 Nissan Rogue SL
STOCK # 8W016494
$20,995.00*

2006 Nissan Pathfinder LE 4WD
STOCK # 6C629879
$23,995.00*

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM
SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last.
* Vehicles Certified with 61 point inspection.

Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU

DOC, DYS staff attend job-related stress training

Staff from Department of Corrections and Division of Youth Services Juvenile Detention Unit attended a training session last Feb. 7 geared toward equipping correctional employees with skills on coping with job-related stress, as well as assisting inmates/detainees on their road to rehabilitation.

A total of 43 guards, officers, and administrative staff from both agencies took part in the whole day training held at the Multi-Purpose Center from 9am to 5pm.

The training was conducted by psychologist Dr. George Kallingal of Guam. Dr. Kallingal, a long time and current adjunct professor at the University of Guam, has been a resident of Guam for the past 34 years, and operates a private clinic and serves as advisor to Guam's Dept. of Corrections.

The training, "Coping with Emotional Tensions and Helping Inmates/Detainees Achieve Their Rehabilitative Goals" was a result of the collaborative efforts between the DOC, DCCA-DYS, and the Juvenile Delinquency Prosecutor's Office of the Attorney General's Office.

The eight-hour training was two-tiered: the morning session addressed the needs of correctional employees, while the afternoon session was focused on skills to assist inmates/detainees reached their rehabilitative goals. Some of the topics that highlighted the training include: (i) Coping with Traumatic Experience and Stress Management; (ii) Etiology of Criminality; Basic Assessment and Rehabilitation Programs; (iii) Suicide Prevention; Assessment and Interventions; (iv) Mental Disorders and Treatment; and (V) Personality Disorders and Treatment.

The participants found the training very helpful and relevant to their jobs and issues they are encountering, as a big portion of the morning session was designed as a training/counseling combination. Both DOC and DYS-JDU staff reported satisfaction from the training, as they found new skills to balance the demands of work and home. The afternoon session thought the participants skills to assess and treat the clients that come through their facility.

Each participant received a "Certificate of Participation" for completing the entire eight-hour training. DOC and DCCA-DYS Administrators showed strong support for their staff, dedicating staff members to put the training together and make it available to their employees. Then DOC commissioner Dolores Aldan delivered the opening remarks at the start of the training, while Michael Evangelista, Assistant Attorney General made the closing remarks. The training concluded with a presentation of certificates, along with Dr. Kallingal, Jaclyn T. Mendiola of DYS and DOC Captain Georgia Cabrera (Acting JDU Administrator) handed out the certificates to the participants. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Department of Corrections and Division of Youth Services Juvenile Detention Unit staff took part in a training session, dubbed "Coping with Emotional Tensions and Helping Inmates/Detainees Achieve Their Rehabilitative Goals," held last Feb. 7 at the Multi-Purpose Center.

Tongan teens appeal against court-ordered flogging

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (AP)—Two Tongan teenagers who escaped from prison and stole food and other goods while on the run have appealed a court ruling ordering them to be whipped, with supporters calling the punishment inhumane and a form of torture.

Supreme Court judge Robert Shuster sentenced each boy to 13 years in prison and six lashes from a "cat-o-nine-tails" whip at a hearing last November that has only just come to light.

The ruling has prompted protests from Tonga's Law Society and others who say it is a brutal and archaic form of punishment that has not been used in decades.

Law Society president Laki Niu said flogging is barbaric, even if it is a deterrent.

"I think it is inhumane. I think it is a form of torture," he told New Zealand's TVOne News on Wednesday.

Niu described the cat-o-nine-tails as a knotted whip with nine strands that are soaked in water overnight. The prisoner is then held down by guards and whipped across the buttocks with great force, he said.

Niu said that the punishment is so intense that it is often hard for the prisoner to remain conscious.

Former police officer Kei Iongi, who whipped two men decades ago, admits they suffered greatly. A doctor halted one whipping, but Iongi believes it's an effective punishment.

"I think it's good for the punishment for the Tongan men," Iongi told TVOne.

Under Tongan law, the South Pacific nation's Cabinet has to approve a whipping sentence, which would then be carried out by police. Prime Minister Feleti Sevele said he would not discuss the case because it was still before the court.

Both boys had long records of petty criminal offenses before their prison breakout.

Boonie Stompers to hike Spanish Steps

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Guam Boonie Stompers will hike the Spanish Steps on Orote Peninsula, Naval Base Guam, tomorrow, Feb. 20, from 9am to 3pm.

Commanding officer of Naval Base Guam, Capt. Scott Galbreaith, invited the group in keeping with the Navy's commitment to preserve and promote Chamorro cultural and historical sites, including those sites on Navy property not always accessible to the public.

Media representatives interested in media coverage including participating in the hike should be at the Navy Pass and ID parking lot at 8:45am, Saturday, Feb. 20. For more information call or email the Naval Base Guam Public Affairs Officer Annette Donner at 339-2663 by 3pm today, Feb. 19. ***(PR)***

Pacific youth need family support to stay in agriculture

Support from the family and wider community is critical in encouraging young people to develop as agricultural entrepreneurs.

This is a key message from a survey of young people in Fiji, Tonga and Kiribati. Spiritual guidance is also important in youth development, with the church playing a leading role in influencing young people's behaviour and activities, especially in engaging them in agricultural activities.

The survey was conducted in November 2009 as part of the activities of the Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Policy Network (PAFPNet). It was aimed at discovering what features of their environment encourage young people to participate in agricultural activities.

It is often said that young people are our future leaders and the most productive age group of our region's labour force. Yet many struggle to find formal employment after leaving school or college and increasing migration of young people from rural to urban areas in search of work puts pressure on already stretched infrastructure and services.

Can agriculture provide an attractive enough source of employment in rural areas to encourage young people to stay in their communities? Pacific Ministers of Agriculture at their meeting in Apia in 2008 asked SPC and partners to examine this issue in greater detail and to develop a Youth and Agriculture Strategy to build on initiatives promoting agriculture as a desirable and profitable career for young people.

The survey found young people are an important part of the informal labour force in their families and communities. In Fiji, Kiribati and Tonga, they are involved in agriculture activities that contribute to income generation as well as household food security. Youth are mostly responsible for planting and maintaining food gardens. A small number run and manage their own semi-commercial plantations. In rural Fiji, young people form groups for specific purposes, such as to build a house or fulfill a specific village or communal obligation.

Young farmers are farming areas of land ranging from a quarter acre to five acres, with the majority cultivating traditional crops with vegetables as secondary crops. Livestock agriculture is mostly limited to raising animals for home consumption.

Despite this active contribution to their families, communities and churches, many of the young people surveyed express frustration at a lack of recognition for their role. They also want relatives and community elders to support their initiatives by allowing them to share the benefits of their own endeavours and, importantly, to set aside land they can use for their own entrepreneurial activities.

The research attempted to determine what conditions are important for the success and sustainability of youth development programmes. The responses indicate that key factors include ensuring young people are actively involved in the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of programmes and that their needs are identified and addressed. Providing a forum within the programme for young people to discuss these needs with their families and community elders is seen as a vital step in developing greater awareness and understanding in families and communities of how they can support young people starting up agricultural ventures.

Although the usual factors of better access to credit, more frequent visits by extension officers and access to affordable agricultural inputs were raised as key constraints facing young people, these are seen as secondary to the issue of a positive supportive environment. This suggests that if agricultural extension services are to better support young people in agricultural activities, they need to broaden their traditional horizons and work with communities and partners to carry out participatory appraisals of youth needs, and to provide training on empowerment, confidence building and financial literacy.

Findings from the research will provide baseline data for the development of the Pacific Youth and Agriculture Strategy 2010–2015. The strategy is aimed at encouraging and empowering young people who live in rural areas to take advantage of self-employment opportunities that can contribute to higher agriculture productivity, improved livelihoods and reduced pressure on urban centres. It seeks to identify key strategies and actions that agriculture, youth and partnering ministries can implement to support young people in their personal and professional development.

This research is an initiative of the Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Policy Network, which is hosted by SPC's Land Resources Division, in partnership with the Human Development Programme of SPC. A draft of the Pacific Youth and Agriculture Strategy will be published soon for consultation with stakeholders. ***(PR)***

MHS granted NFL charter membership

Marianas High School has been granted charter membership in the National Forensic League.

This significant distinction is the highest school membership honor in the NFL. As a charter member, MHS has demonstrated excellence in attaining new members and degrees.

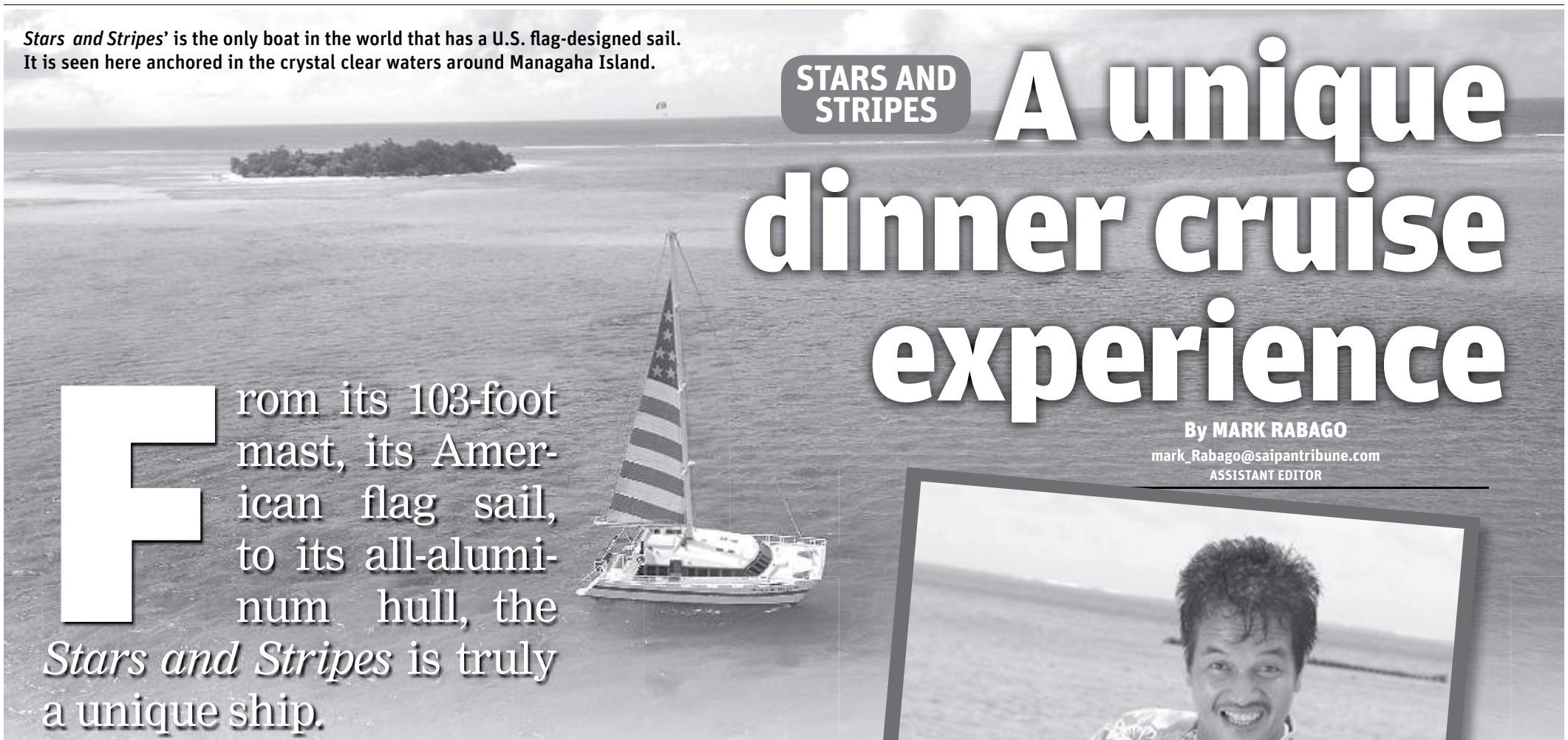
MHS is coached by Harold Easton.

The NFL is non-partisan, not for profit educational honor society established to train high school students in the forensic art: debate, public speaking, and interpretation of literature.

The NFL believes that all students should be empowered to become effective communicators, ethical individuals, critical thinkers, and leaders in a democratic society.

Currently over 93,000 high school students and over 7,000 high school teachers are building their linguistic, cognitive, leadership, and presentational skills as members. Since 1925, more than 1.3 million people have found their voice in the NFL. ***(PR)***

Saipan, Tinian and Rota!
Join us this SATURDAY morning, FEBRUARY 20, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – 13 Fishermen Pavilion
Tinian: 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Tachog'na Beach
Rota: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Téteto Beach



Stars and Stripes' is the only boat in the world that has a U.S. flag-designed sail. It is seen here anchored in the crystal clear waters around Managaha Island.

STARS AND STRIPES

A unique dinner cruise experience

By MARK RABAGO
mark_Rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

From its 103-foot mast, its American flag sail, to its all-aluminum hull, the *Stars and Stripes* is truly a unique ship.

Couple the boat's distinct attributes with a hard-working staff, sumptuous buffet dinner, and all-out entertainment brought to you by no less than Saipan's "Elvis Presley", Roger Cadua, and you have yourself a sunset cruise to remember.

My wife Melanie and I were lucky enough to be treated to such an experience, by *Stars and Stripes* owner Sam Markos, last Feb. 13, Valentine's Day eve. The crew welcomed guests aboard with pleasant smiles and you know immediately how serious the cruise's *Stars and Stripes* theme is with the crew wearing U.S.-flag inspired shirts.

FOR RESERVATIONS, CONTACT Sea-Lago, Inc. 234-7266

Markos gave us a quick tour of the boat and immediately made us feel right at home while Capt. Rick Seidler prepared to sail.

engines. She is 40 feet wide and weighs over 60 tons.

Showpiece

But ask anyone what catches their eye upon gazing on the catamaran, and to a man everyone would say it is her U.S. flag sail.

"The showpiece of the boat is our U.S. flag-designed sail. The *Stars and Stripes* is the only boat in the world that has a sail like this," said Markos.

The ship's fame is not limited locally, as according to Markos, the *Stars and Stripes* has also been featured on album covers, magazines, and has been used as the backdrop for commercial advertising.

First-class cruise

Since 2005, *Stars and Stripes* has offered sunset dinner cruises not only to tourists but also to local patrons.

Markos said what sets his boat and its sunset cruise apart from the competition is the unparalleled amenities it provides.

"The Stars and Stripes is a first class, sailing catamaran, which can comfortably seat 100 people in our air-conditioned main salon. We serve one of the finest buffet dinners on island, catered daily by the Fiesta Resort [and Spa Saipan]. Guests can easily stroll along our spacious decks, even when we have 149 passengers aboard. Our entertainer Roger Cadua will take your breath away; singing your favorite songs, ending the evening with a dazzling Elvis Presley show and non-stop dancing," he said.

True enough, my wife and I never felt that we were on a sunset cruise with 80 other guests and the cruise was so smooth and entertaining that we didn't notice that the hour and a half cruise was already over and we were back at the Outer Cove Marina.

Cadua is also a showman par excellence. Whether belting out Chamorro tunes, disco classics, or The Kings' top hits, he keeps spirits up and never fails to get guests involved.

His show ended a good five minutes after we arrived at the dock and the crowd let Cadua know how much they appreciated his talent by hugging and embracing him.

Roger Cadua is the onboard entertainment and caps his performance with an Elvis Presley impersonation.

Saipan is home

Markos moved to Saipan in 2001 and has made the island his home ever since. A few years later he acquired the *Stars and Stripes* and set up the sunset dinner cruise.

"I have always loved the water and have had boats most of my life. After living in Guam for 15 years, I moved to Saipan in 2001 and fell in love with the island. I was retired but bored, so I decided that I would do something that involved boating. The first thing I did was to purchase the M/V *Challenger* from the government, with plans to make trips to the Northern islands.

"While living in Guam, I got to see the *Stars and Stripes* out on the water often. I always admired her, but never thought I would have the opportunity to own her; but as fortunes have it, I purchased the *Stars and Stripes* in November 2002. By the summer of 2003, I was able to bring the *Stars and Stripes* to Saipan, where we spent the next two years rebuilding her into a first class dinner cruise boat," he said.

Interesting times

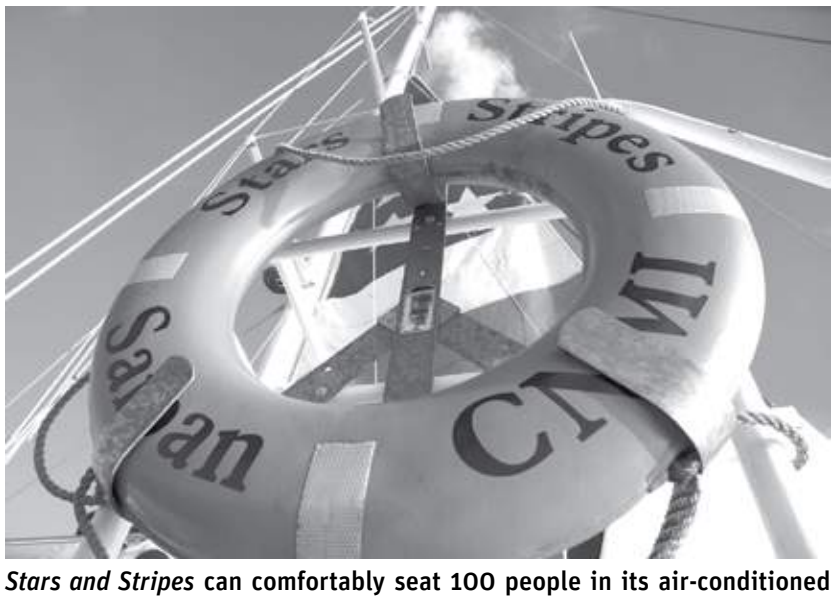
Despite the hard economic times, Markos said his company, Sea-Lago Inc., is still betting on tourism and sees the *Stars and Stripes* as the first of many ventures into the visitors industry.

"As the Chinese say, 'These are very interesting times we live in' Saipan is going through major changes in both economics and political status. There are many new factors that will come into play over the next few years. I am positive that things will work out for us in the end, but we will have to survive the changes first. Tourism is the way of the future for Saipan. It offers us the opportunity to maintain our way of life and still get to enjoy the beauty of living here," he said.

According to Markos, one way of surviving the economic tempest is becoming more hands-on in the business.

"We, like most business owners on Saipan, have to take a direct role in our operations. Gone are the days of middle management positions for most of us. We need to jump in and do the work ourselves. We operate with very few employees. My wife Jenny and I handle most of the work and are onboard the *Stars and Stripes* every evening, working side by side with our hardworking staff. I was taught as a young boy, that if you want your staff to give 100 percent, then be ready and willing to work alongside them," he said.

For reservations, call Sea-Lago Inc. at 234-7266.



Stars and Stripes can comfortably seat 100 people in its air-conditioned main salon.

"The *Stars and Stripes* is a very unique boat. Born in Singapore in 1988, she sailed the waters of Guam from 1988 until 2001. From the time she left the shipyard, she has always been different, " he said.

Markos went on to say that the 72-foot boat is built almost entirely out of aluminum. It also has chilled water air-conditioning, powered by two 55-kilowatt generator sets, and cruises on the water on two 375-horsepower Caterpillar diesel

The dinner buffet is catered by no less than Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Business

Obama says stimulus bill saved troubled economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama hailed Wednesday's one-year-old economic stimulus law as an accomplishment that staved off another Great Depression and kept up to 2 million people on the job.

Still, with millions still out of work and losing patience, Obama acknowledged that to them, "It doesn't yet feel like much of a recovery."

Marking the anniversary of the $787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Obama aimed his message at people skeptical about the expensive relief measure and Republican lawmakers who voted against it and continue to hammer him about it.

To the public, Obama explained, as he has many times before, that the stimulus plan was composed of tax cuts for most Americans along with help for state governments, extended social service benefits and huge investments in energy, education and infrastructure.

"One year later, it is largely thanks to the recovery act that a second depression is no longer a possibility," Obama said.

To his Republican critics, who say the bill was a costly, debt-financed blunder that has not delivered on the promise of job creation, Obama challenged them to take up the case with people who have stayed employed or have found help solely because he and the Democratic-run Congress acted.

Obama even delighted in recounting a section of his State of the Union address last month in which he talked of the tax cuts from the stimulus plan and watched Republican lawmakers fail to applaud the idea.

"They were all kind of squirming in their seats ... It was interesting to watch," Obama said.

And Obama made sure to commend himself and his own team for taking action.

AP

President Barack Obama, accompanied by Vice President Joe Biden, delivers remarks on the economy on the one year anniversary of the signing of the Recovery Act, Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010, in the South Court Auditorium in the Old Executive Office Building on the White House campus in Washington.

The United States has lost an astounding 8.4 million jobs since this recession began in December 2007.

Obama said the stimulus plan is on target to create or save 1.5 million more jobs, bringing up the estimated total to 3.5 million.

But he sought to remind people that the goal of law was never to restore every job. The government can build confidence and demand and rescue people in hard times during a severe economic slide, Obama said, but it will always be businesses of the private sector that ultimately generate jobs and a recovery.

Obama made repeated references to how well, in his view, his government has done with the stimulus.

"There has never been a program of this scale, moved at this speed, that has been enacted as effectively and as transparently as the recovery act," Obama added.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Japan central bank keeps interest rate unchanged

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's central bank held interest rates just above zero Thursday and held off on new policy steps, resisting growing government pressure to escalate the fight against deflation. The seven member policy board voted unanimously to keep the overnight call rate target at 0.1 percent. The Bank of Japan has maintained the super-low interest rate since December 2008 when it was cut from 0.3 percent. It maintained its assessment of the economy, saying conditions are improving but that domestic consumption remains too weak. Gross domestic product figures released Monday showed that Japan's economy beat expectations to grow at an annualized pace of 4.6 percent in the fourth quarter. The expansion helped the country fend off a surging China and keep its title as the world's No. 2 economy in terms of total output.

Oil falls below $77 as US distillate supplies rise

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell below $77 a barrel Thursday in Asia on signs gasoline and distillate demand in the U.S. remain sluggish. Benchmark crude for March delivery was down 38 cents to $76.95 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract added 32 cents to settle at $77.33 on Wednesday. Inventories of distillates, which include heating oil and diesel fuel, rose 1.3 million barrels last week, the American Petroleum Institute said late Wednesday. Analysts, eyeing a cold weather spell in much of the U.S. this month, had expected a drop of 1.6 million barrels, according to a survey by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.

Source: US govt to investigate Toyota Corolla

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Transportation Department plans to open a formal investigation into the 2009-2010 Toyota Corolla over potential problems with the car's power steering, a department official said Wednesday.

The preliminary investigation is expected to be opened on Thursday and involves an estimated 500,000 vehicles. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the department had not yet notified Toyota of the probe.

Toyota Motor Corp. said at a news conference in Japan earlier Wednesday that it was looking into complaints of power steering problems with the Corolla and was considering a recall as one option. Toyota said there have been fewer than 100 complaints.

In the U.S., the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has received about 150 complaints from drivers about the issue. The complaints are small compared to the number of vehicles involved: The department said the investigation involves about 363,000 vehicles from the 2009 model year and about 136,000 vehicles from the 2010 model year.

In the Corolla complaints, drivers have said they felt they were losing control over the car's steering, particularly at highway speeds.

Data on industry output, home building boost hopes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hopes that the economy can sustain its recovery drew support Wednesday from news that industrial ouput rose for a seventh straight month and home construction hit a six-month peak in January.

Analysts cautioned, though, that the gains in both sectors could falter if consumer demand weakens.

The report on industrial production from the Federal Reserve showed gains in all three major categories: manufacturing, mining and utilities. It was the first such collective show of strength since August. Manufacturing output rose 1 percent, led by a nearly 5 percent gain in auto production.

Manufacturing has been a big contributor to the early stages of the economic rebound. In the fourth quarter, for example, roughly two-thirds of growth came from a burst of manufacturing activity. Factories have been churning out goods for businesses that had let their stockpiles dwindle as a way to save cash.

A separate sign of strength came in a Commerce Department report on housing construction. Home building posted a better-than-expected increase last month. Construction rose 2.8 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 591,000 units.

MEETING NOTICE

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.** at the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes
      - January 15, 2010

2) **Public Comments**

3) **Committee Reports**
   1. Finance
   2. Policy
   3. Personnel
   4. Ad Hoc Reports

4) **Old Business**

5) **New Business**
   1. Ratification of Email Poll – Redesign English Website
   2. PATA International Membership Dues
   3. FY 2009 Annual Report Design, Layout, and Printing
   4. FY 2011 Budget

6) **Executive Session**

7) **Adjournment**

/s/ Jerry Tan
Chairman, MVA Board of Directors

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Monday, February 22, 2010 beginning at 9:00 AM at the MPLT Conference Room, Suite #107, Morgen Building; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CONSULTANT'S REPORTS
- Investment Consultant Reports
  - Performance Reports – DEC 2009
  - Flash Reports – JAN 2010
  - Economic Forecast
  - Atalanta Sosnoff Returns (GF vs. PF)
  - JP Morgan Watch Status
- Loan Administrator Reports
- Legal Counsel Reports
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements – DEC 2009
  - FY 2010 Budget - Revised

III OLD BUSINESS
- IBPC Investment Request Review & Action
- Service Providers Review & Action
- Portfolio Monitoring Review
- Fiduciary Liability Insurance Review
- Trustee Benefits Review
- Training Recommendation

IV COMMUNICATIONS
- Trustee Nomination - Rota
- Limited Scope Agreement - Construction
- A&E RFP Communications
- Contingent Liability Letter - Legal

V NEW BUSINESS
- Money Manager Presentations
- Employment Contracts Review & Action
- Northern Marianas Indegenous Non-Profit Organization

VI MISCELLANEOUS

VII ADJOURNMENT

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on February 23rd, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before February 23rd.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than February 23rd. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or visit our Customer Service Representatives at our Chalan Lau-Lau Office.

IT&E
Life in Motion

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

NJ man tells police he tossed baby off bridge

WOODBRIDGE, N.J. (AP)—A man who snatched his infant daughter from the arms of her maternal grandmother while the child's mother was in court getting a restraining order against him told police he threw the baby off a bridge and into a frigid New Jersey river, prompting a massive search Wednesday beneath a busy parkway. Search teams, including boats, dogs and helicopters, scoured the area beneath the Garden State Parkway's Driscoll Bridge in central New Jersey for any signs of 3-month-old Zara Malani-lin Abdur. Acting New Jersey Attorney General Paula Dow called the incident "an example of a horrific case of domestic violence."

Wash. man convicted in cab driver's stabbing death

TACOMA, Wash. (AP)—Jurors in Washington state have convicted a 32-year-old man of murder in the stabbing death of a cab driver who came to the U.S. to escape the violence of his native Somalia. The Pierce County Superior Court jury on Wednesday convicted Jaycee Fuller of Tacoma in the March 2009 slaying of 22-year-old Mohamud Ahmed. Sentencing is set for March 12. Prosecutors say Fuller, a former cab driver himself, slashed Ahmed's throat and stabbed him in the chest during a robbery attempt. They presented as evidence a cap found near the scene that had Ahmed's blood on the outside and Fuller's DNA on the inside. Prosecutors also say Fuller was unemployed and was known to dislike foreigners because he thought they were taking jobs from Americans.

Students fall ill at NH school; tests inconclusive

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—More than 20 students and staff members showed symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure at a school Wednesday, but officials were stumped when air tests turned up none of the toxic gas. Officials had not ruled out carbon monoxide as the cause of the situation at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Derry, they said. "We have not been able to isolate a source yet," Derry fire Capt. Scott Haggart said. "So what we do now is we make all of the equipment work like it was working when the incident happened, but harder. We turn up the heat as high it will go, we make the furnace work hard, and we'll be returning throughout the night to remeter the building."

8 jailed missionaries leave Haiti for US

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Eight American missionaries were freed from a Haitian jail and left for Miami Wednesday, nearly three weeks after being arrested trying to take 33 children out of the earthquake-stricken country.

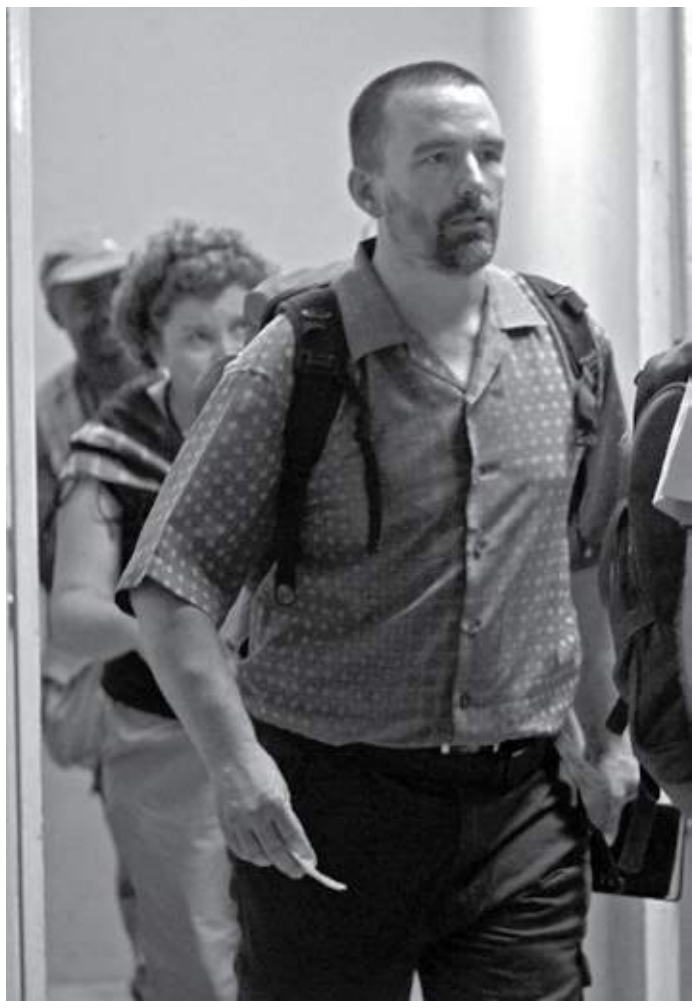
Reporters watched the U.S. Air Force C-130 cargo plane carrying the group take off from the capital's U.S. military-controlled airport, whose main terminal in shambles.

The Baptists, most from Idaho, had been sequestered in a tent on the tarmac protected by Air Force troops after U.S. diplomats escorted them out of the nearby police station where they'd been held in muggy, grimy cells.

The group's swift departure began earlier Wednesday when Judge Bernard Saint-Vil said eight of the 10 missionaries were free to leave without bail because parents of the children had testified they voluntarily gave their children to the missionaries believing the Americans would give them a better life.

"The parents gave their kids away voluntarily," Saint-Vil said in explaining his decision.

He said, however, that he still wanted to question the group's leader, Laura Silsby, and her former nanny, Charisa Coulter, because they had visited Haiti prior to the quake to inquire about obtaining orphans.



AP

American missionarie arrested on charges of child kidnapping Steve McMullin, 56, from Twin Falls, Idaho, leaves a Haitian jail as an unidentified U.S. Embassy official walks behind him at left in Port-au-Prince, Wednesday Feb. 17, 2010.

Hours later, just after dusk, the bedraggled, sweat-stained group of eight walked out of the Haitian jail escorted by U.S. diplomats. They waited until they were safely inside a white embassy van before some flashed smiles and gave a thumbs up to reporters.

Silas Thompson, 19, of Twin Falls, Idaho, plopped into the back seat, breathing heavily and beaming with relief. He'd accompanied his father Paul, a pastor, on the mission not knowing that Silsby had not obtained the proper papers, said his U.S.-based lawyer, Caleb Stegall.

The missionaries were charged with child kidnapping for trying to take 33 Haitian children to the Dominican Republic on Jan. 29 without Haitian adoption certificates.

Their detentions came just as aid officials were urging a halt to short-cut adoptions in the wake of the earthquake and, before their release, Haiti's No. 2 justice official, Claudy Gassent, informed them of the judge's decision but said he also gave them a lecture.

"They know they broke the law," he said.

The missionaries say they were on a do-it-youself "rescue mission" to take child quake victims to a hastily prepared orphanage in the Dominican Republic, denying the trafficking charge.

Silsby originally said they were taking only orphaned and abandoned children, but The Associated Press determined that at least 20 were handed over willingly by their parents, who said the Baptists had promised to educate them and let their parents visit.

Saint-Vil said he did not release Silsby, 47, or Coulter, 24, because of their previous activities in Haiti during a December visit. Silsby hastily enlisted the rest of the group after the quake. Coulter, of Boise, Idaho, is diabetic and the judge signed an order Wednesday afternoon authorizing her hospitalization.

He said he had planned to question both women Thursday but that Coulter's health situation could prompt a delay. She had briefly been taken to a U.S. field hospital on Wednesday for treatment after feeling faint but was then taken back to jail.

Students complained about prof charged in rampage

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP)—Students banded together to let administrators know something wasn't quite right about Professor Amy Bishop. She taught by reading straight out of the textbook, never made eye contact and liked to remind people constantly that she went to Harvard.

"We could tell something was off, that she was not like other teachers," said nursing student Caitlin Phillips, who was among those who complained to administrators at least three times a year ago that the biology professor was unsettling and ineffective in the classroom. Some students also signed a petition against Bishop.

Students said they had no reason to think she might turn violent. But after Bishop's arrest Friday on charges of shooting to death three colleagues during a faculty meeting at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, the complaints add to the picture that has emerged of her as a brilliant but erratic figure.

Bishop

While police have not released a motive for the shootings, colleagues said the 44-year-old neuroscientist was simmering with resentment over being denied tenure last March.

Her court-appointed lawyer, Roy W. Miller, declined to comment on the case. "It is just so premature," he said. "I just got involved."

Since the shooting, other disturbing behavior from Bishop has come to light.

In 1986, she killed her 18-year-old brother with a shotgun blast in Braintree, Mass., then demanded a getaway car at gunpoint from an auto dealer, authorities said. She claimed the gun went off accidentally, and she was never charged.

Rep. William Delahunt, D-Mass., the district attorney at the time, said Wednesday he has limited memory of the case. He spoke with The Associated Press in Israel, where he was traveling.

"I understand I haven't had a real opportunity to get into the details of the case, but I suspect when I return I'll have an opportunity to become debriefed," the congressman said.

GOP sees possible upside in health care summit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional Republicans see a chance for political gain in President Barack Obama's televised health care summit next week, even though the president will be running the show.

Obama and the Democrats are certain to highlight a crucial element of their health care plan—extending coverage to more than 30 million Americans—at the one-of-a-kind event. By comparison, a Republican plan would only help 3 million more. But during a time of ballooning deficits, the GOP figures reining in rising medical costs—not coverage—could resonate with voters in an election year.

The Democratic health overhaul plan is estimated at some $1 trillion over 10 years, and Republicans will contrast their financial approach with that of the Democrats. So even on Obama's turf, the GOP thinks it can score a few political points.

"I think what we have to do is keep it on the policy and really continue to describe that we have listened to the American people, and anyone listening to the American people would say scrap this bill and begin again, and let's begin again by focusing on lowering costs," Rep. Dave Camp of Michigan, who will be attending the summit as the top Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee, said Tuesday.

Republicans know they go into the half-day event Feb. 25 with built-in disadvantages. Obama dominated when he debated House Republicans at their retreat in Baltimore last month, and the White House would like to recreate that dynamic, capitalizing on Obama's speaking skills.

Cops: Imitation pot as bad as the real thing

AP

This Feb. 15, 2010, photo shows a package of K2 which contains herbs and spices sprayed with a synthetic compound chemically similar to THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—There may be nothing like the real thing, but some industrious marijuana users have seized on an obscure but easily accessible substance that mimics the drug's effects on the brain—creating a popular trade in legal dope that has stymied law enforcement authorities.

The users are buying a product known as K2—or "Spice," Genie" and "Zohai"—that is commonly sold in head shops as incense. Produced in China and Korea, the mixture of herbs and spices is sprayed with a synthetic compound chemically similar to THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. Users roll it up in joints or inhale it from pipes, just like the real thing.

Though banned in most of Europe, K2's key ingredients are not regulated in the United States—a gap that has prompted lawmakers in Missouri and Kansas to consider new legislation.

"This isn't Jerry Garcia's marijuana," said state Rep. Jeff Roorda, a Democrat from the eastern Missouri town of Barnhart. "They've used chemicals to avoid creating something that's already illegal."

Authorities in Johnson County, Kan., discovered ex-convicts on probation smoking K2, and said it is spreading to high school students.

Asia

Embattled Afghan Taliban rely on human shields

MARJAH, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban fighters holding out in Marjah are increasingly using civilians as human shields, firing from compounds where U.S. and Afghan forces can clearly see women and children on rooftops or in windows, Afghan and U.S. troops said Wednesday.

The intermingling of fighters and civilians also has been witnessed by Associated Press journalists. It is part of a Taliban effort to exploit strict NATO rules against endangering innocent lives to impede the allied advance through the town in Helmand province, 610 kilometers (360 miles) southwest of Kabul.

Two more NATO service members were killed in the Marjah operation Wednesday, the alliance said in a statement without identifying them by nationality.

Their deaths brought to six NATO service members and one Afghan soldier who have been killed since the attack on Marjah, the hub of the Taliban's southern logistics and drug-smuggling network, began Saturday. About 40 insurgents have been killed, Helmand Gov. Gulab Mangal said.

AP

During a sporadic firefight, a U.S. Marine infantryman helps rush to a U.S. Army medevac helicopter a combative and wounded Taliban fighter captured minutes earlier, according to witnesses, in Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Wednesday Feb. 17, 2010.

During Wednesday's fighting, Marines and Afghan troops "saw sustained but less frequent insurgent activity," mostly small-scale attacks, NATO said in a statement.

NATO spokesman Brig. Gen. Eric Tremblay told journalists in Brussels that most of the objectives have been achieved. "Perhaps the pocket in the western side of Marjah still gives freedom of movement to the Taliban, but that is the extent of their movement," he said.

This is the biggest offensive since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan, and a test of President Barack Obama's strategy for reversing the rise of the Taliban while protecting civilians.

Taliban town residents skeptical of NATO promises

MARJAH, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban's white flag no longer flies over villages across this militant stronghold. Afghan and NATO troops have replaced it with Afghanistan's official green-and-red banner, which they promise heralds new schools and clinics and good governance.

But residents have heard that before, and for many, Taliban rule hasn't been all that bad. Plenty of Afghans have made a living off the opium trade, which also funds the insurgency. While some residents greet NATO forces with tea, others just want the troops to clear their streets of explosives and leave.

No one here needs liberating, they say.

"The Taliban didn't create any problems for people. Every Thursday there was a court session, and if someone had a problem, he would go in front of the Taliban mullah who was the judge," said Samad Khan, a 55-year-old poppy farmer in the village of Saipo on the outskirts of Marjah. The Islamist militant group levied a 10 percent yearly tax on his poppy crop, and let him be.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Impasse feared in RP talks with rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim guerrillas said Wednesday they have rejected the Philippine government's latest autonomy offer, making it difficult to forge any peace accord before President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo leaves office in June. Government negotiators and the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has fought for Muslim self-rule in the southern Philippines for decades, last month resumed talks following a yearlong hiatus.

3 Muslim Malaysia women caned for extramarital sex

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Authorities in Malaysia caned three Muslim women for having extramarital sex, making them the first women in the country to receive such punishment under Islamic law, an official said Wednesday. The caning of women has fueled debate about whether Islamic conservatism was intruding into people's personal lives in this moderate Muslim-majority country. Another woman, Kartika Sari Dewi Shukarno, a 32-year-old mother of two, was sentenced to caning last year for drinking beer.

Quake rocks China-Russia-North Korea border region

BEIJING (AP)—A magnitude 6.7 earthquake rocked the region where China, Russia and North Korea meet Thursday, the U.S. Geological Survey said. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. Though area residents said they did not feel the quake, office towers in Beijing—about 770 miles (1,240 kilometers) away from the epicenter—swayed slightly for about a minute. The quake occurred 335 miles (540 kilometers) below the earth's surface. With earthquakes centered deep underground, sometimes those close to the epicenter don't feel it while people further away notice some shaking, said the duty officer at the Seismological Bureau of Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture in northeast China's Jilin province. He refused to give his name as is common among Chinese officials.

Pakistan confirms arrest of Afghan Taliban's No. 2

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan confirmed for the first time Wednesday that it has the Afghan Taliban's No. 2 leader in custody, and officials said he was providing useful intelligence that was being shared with the United States.

The confirmation came as the Pakistani government defused a political crisis that threatened to distract from the fight against militancy by backing off on judicial appointments opposed by the Supreme Court.

The Afghan Taliban leader, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, was arrested earlier this month in a joint operation by CIA and Pakistani security forces in the southern port city of Karachi, U.S. and Pakistani officials said on condition of anonymity Tuesday. The army on Wednesday gave the first public confirmation of the arrest.

"At the conclusion of detailed identification procedures, it has been confirmed that one of the persons arrested happens to be Mullah Baradar," chief army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said in a written message to reporters. "The place of arrest and operational details cannot be released due to security reasons."

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-TDEQ-057

OPENING DATE: MARCH 09, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY-TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FAX REQUEST TO (670) 664-1515.

THIS IS A FEDERALY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFRENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-RDEQ-060

OPENING DATE: MARCH 09, 2010 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY-ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FAX REQUEST TO (670) 664-1515.

THIS IS A FEDERALY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFRENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors (especially the Tinian and Rota contractors) that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on its listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies who wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Current Financial Statements (certified by the principle executive officer and principle financial officer)
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Returns
4. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
5. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
6. Workmen's Compensation Policy
7. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
8. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts including three (3) reference letters from owners of the projects
9. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them
10. The company's total years in the construction business
11. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY MARCH 08, 2010 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS."

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO

NMHC is an equal housing provider, lender and employer.

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL
1st Quarter Meeting
9:00 a.m. – Feb. 24, 2010 - Wednesday
Pacific Islands Club

Agenda

I. Preliminary Matter
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes from 2/25/09 meeting

II. Old Business
- a. Chair Report
- b. Sub-Committee reports
  - i. Nomination/Membership/By-Laws (Janet)
  - ii. Legislative/Regulatory (Tom)
  - iii. Planning (Jennifer)
- c. MHPC/Coalition projects
- d. Rota Report
- e. Tinian Report (Winnie)
- f. TLC/Clubhouse updates
- g. Concerns

III. New Business
- a. Election of Officers
  - MHPC Chair
  - MHPC Vice-Chair
  - MHPC Secretary
  - MHPC Fiscal Officer
  - New Schedule for Meetings

IV. Misc/Announcement

V. Next Meeting
- a. To be announce-PIC

VI. Adjournment

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Ancient Arabic inscription found in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP)—A home renovation in Jerusalem's Old City has yielded a rare Arabic inscription offering insight into the city's history under Muslim rule, Israeli archaeologists said Wednesday. The fragment of a 1,100-year-old plaque is thought to have been made by an army veteran to express his thanks for a land grant from the Caliph al-Muqtadir, whom the inscription calls "Emir of the Faithful." Dating from a time when Jerusalem was ruled from Baghdad by the Abbasid empire, the plaque shows how rulers rewarded their troops and ensured their loyalty, archaeologists said. The Abbasids conquered Jerusalem after numerous wars with the Fatimid empire in Egypt. The Abbasid caliphs valued Jerusalem as an Islamic holy site.

Mexican leader listens to border city on drug war

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—President Felipe Calderon promised federal investigations into all complaints of extortion and kidnapping in a Mexican border city overwhelmed by drug gang violence. Calderon made the pledge after meeting Wednesday with hundreds of residents of Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas. "The city will again become a city of law," said Calderon, who traveled to Ciudad Juarez after meeting with U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano in Mexico City to discuss the drug war and aviation security.

Two officers accused of crimes appointed to govt

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP)—Two powerful army officers accused of grave crimes have been appointed ministers in Guinea's new government, dashing hopes that the rogue soldiers blamed for bringing this country to the brink of conflict would be sidelined. The announcement of their appointment came via a decree read on state TV late Tuesday, more than 24 hours after the list of other government ministers was announced. The initial list - which included only five members of the military, none of whom are accused of crimes - was hailed as proof that Guinea is moving ahead with plans to return the West African country to civilian rule after an 11-month military dictatorship.

Haiti's quake camps turning into shanty towns

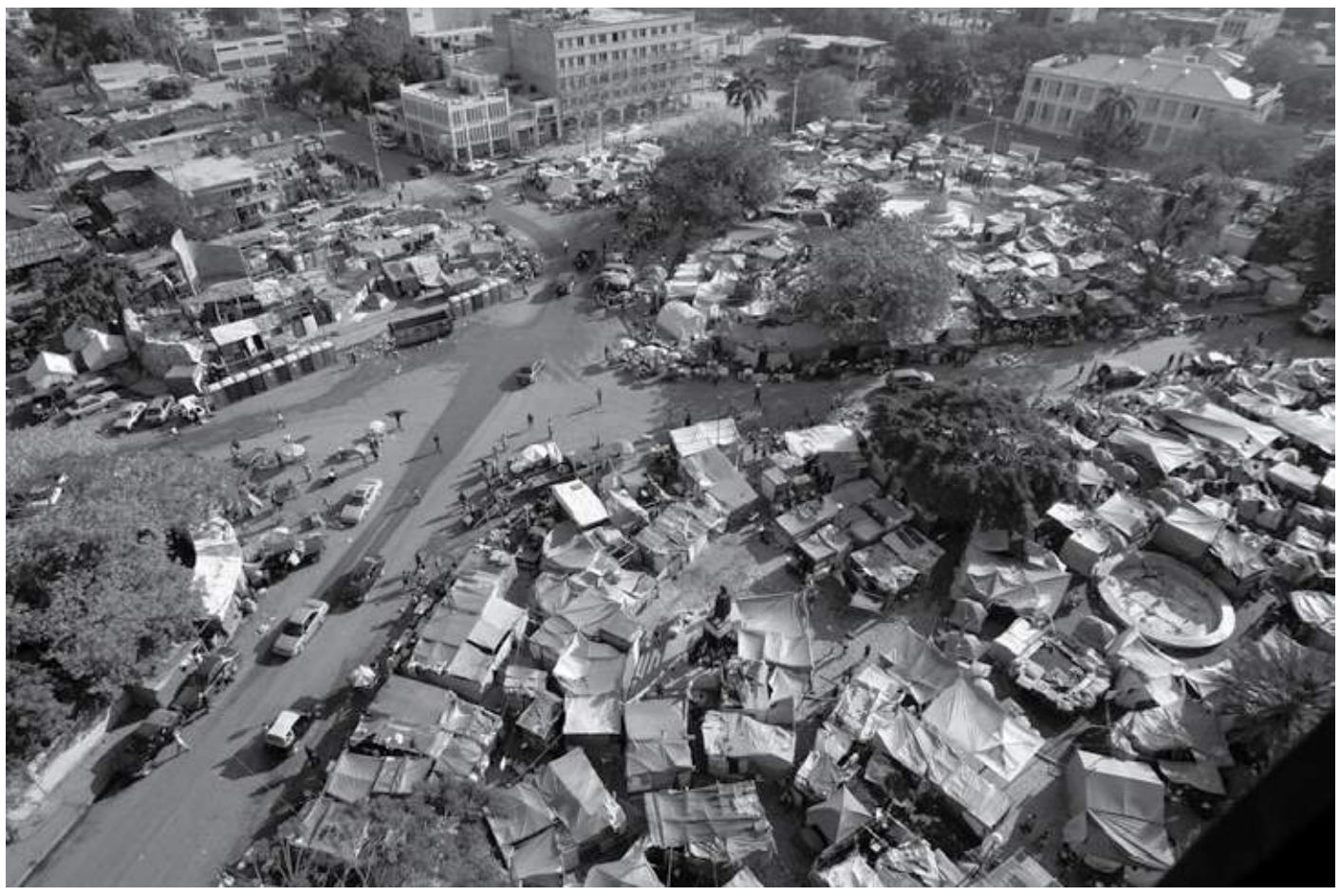
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—First there was an empty field. Then came rows of makeshift tents. Now those camps are turning into shanty towns—with bakeries, lottery stands and homes—that show no sign of moving soon.

In the five weeks since the quake struck, aid workers, officials and Haiti's government have debated where and how the 1.2 million people left homeless by the disaster should live. Should they be given ready-made tents or plastic tarps? What land should be made available to house them?

A long-delayed announcement on where government camps might go could be made Thursday.

But the people are not waiting. On a former landing strip-turned-boulevard called Route de Piste a cluster of ramshackle villages is rising.

Row upon row of corrugated tin and wood shacks stand against the wind as dusty men walk between them carrying saws and hammers. Children look for the snow cone man at the crossroads, near where a lottery dealer named Max has set up his booth. In a shack marked "Boulangerie Pep La"—the people's bakery—the smell of dough wafts from the oven, and two flat rolls cost 5 gourdes, about 12 cents.



Aerial view of makeshift tents in Port au Prince Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010. AP

These shanty towns are redrawing the map of the capital, filling open fields with new versions of the joyful life and harsh crime and abuse that always marked existence in the slums—with an extra helping of disease, hunger and misery brought on by the Jan. 12 disaster.

This means people are planning to stay in some very dangerous places: at the bottom of hillsides they know will collapse in a heavy rain or near riverbeds that are bound to flood. They are crowded into polluted areas where sanitation is limited and disease is already starting to spread.

Israelis convinced: Mossad behind Dubai hit

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli security officials said Wednesday they were convinced the Mossad was behind the assassination of a Hamas commander in Dubai and harshly criticized the spy agency for allegedly stealing the identities of its own citizens to carry out the hit.

Names released by Dubai matched seven people living in Israel, raising questions about why the agency would endanger its own people by using their passport data as cover for a secret death squad.

At the same time, some Israeli experts said the Dubai evidence pointed to a setup to falsely blame Israel.

A vague comment from Israel's foreign minister, who neither confirmed nor denied Mossad's involvement, only added to the spy novel-like mystery surrounding the slaying of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh, who was found dead Jan. 20 at a luxury hotel near Dubai's international airport.

AP

This combination image made from undated photos released by the Dubai Ruler's Media Office on Monday, Feb. 15, 2010, which were claimed by Dubai's Police Chief to show eleven suspects wanted in connection with the killing of a Hamas commander, Mahmoud al-Mabhouh, in his Dubai hotel room last month.

"Israel never responds, never confirms and never denies," Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said in Israel's first official comment on the affair, then added: "I don't know why we are assuming that Israel, or the Mossad, used those passports."

Some senior Israeli security officials not directly involved in the case were less circumspect, saying they were convinced it was a Mossad operation because of the motive—Israel says al-Mabhouh supplied Gaza's Hamas rulers with their most dangerous weapons—and the use of Israeli citizens' identities.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of a government order not to discuss the case, characterized the operation as a significant Mossad bungle.

If it develops into a full-blown security scandal, that could harm Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu politically.

UN says US aid restrictions hurting hungry Somalis

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—U.S. restrictions designed to stop terrorists in Somalia from diverting aid are hurting humanitarian operations in the lawless Horn of Africa country, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

U.N. agencies have not seen any evidence from the American government that food aid is being diverted to Islamists fighting the U.N.-backed Somali government, said the top U.N. humanitarian official for Somalia, Mark Bowden.

"What we are seeing is a politicization of humanitarian issues," Bowden told journalists in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi. "The options for a lot of Somalis look pretty bleak."

The U.S. reduced its funding to Somalia last year after its Office of Foreign Assets Control expressed fear that the extended supply line and insurgent-heavy areas where aid agencies were operating meant aid could be diverted to a group with links to al-Qaida.

The reduction contributed to a shortfall in funding that meant only two-thirds of the $900 million needed in 2009 was raised, said Kiki Ghebo, the head of the office responsible for coordinating humanitarian affairs in Somalia. The U.S. is the biggest contributor of humanitarian aid in Somalia.

Bowden says agencies were being asked to comply with impractical requirements by the U.S., but he declined to give details. He said stateside employees of the U.S. government's aid agency, USAID, were eager to resolve the impasse but said that they faced resistance from higher up in the administration.

"The whole issue seems to be dragging on for far too long," he said.

In Washington, a White House spokesman placed blame for the situation on terror groups active in Somalia.

France orders five former Guantanamo inmates back to court

PARIS (AP)—France's highest court on Wednesday overruled a lower court's acquittal of five former inmates at the Guantanamo Bay prison and ordered an appeals court to rehear the case centering on terrorism charges.

The Court of Cassation did not immediately explain its reasons for the ruling, but a copy of its decision will be available Thursday, a spokesman for the court said.

The high court said a new appeals court panel will be created to handle the case, said the spokesman on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

A defense lawyer representing two of the men criticized the ruling, saying it amounted to a "sinister page in the history of the judicial system" and "a great cruelty on a human level."

France is among the few Western countries to prosecute nationals who have returned home from Guantanamo. The acquittal had been a high-profile foreign disavowal of the prison, which President Barack Obama wants to shut down.

The Paris criminal court in 2007 convicted the five—Ridouane Khalid, Brahim Yadel, Khaled ben Mustafa, Nizar Sassi and Mourad Benchellali—of "criminal association with a terrorist enterprise," a broad charge often used in terror cases in France.

Off The Wall

Guinea pig touted as solution to Congo food crisis

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—An army of humanitarian organizations has been unable to end years of recurring hunger in conflict-torn Congo. Now a South American research group says it may have found another way to fill hungry bellies: with guinea pigs.

Better known as cute pets in Western nations, the small rodents could provide war-battered villages with "a much-needed source of protein and micro-nutrients in a country with some of the highest incidences of malnutrition the world," according to the Colombia-based agricultural research institute, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, or CIAT.

Congo's hilly east has been plagued by violent turmoil since Rwanda's 1994 genocide spilled war across the border, displacing millions of people and sparking years of skirmishes between soldiers, rebels and militia from both nations.

AP

This photograph of Thursday Nov. 12, 2009 provided by CIAT, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, shows a Congolese woman posing with her guinea pig in a village in rural North Kivu province in eastern Congo.

It's not known how or when guinea pigs—native to South America—arrived in Congo, but CIAT researchers discovered them last year being kept as "micro-livestock" in the nation's hard-hit North and South Kivu provinces, which border Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.

"Small and easy to conceal, guinea pigs are well-suited to (Congo's) conflict zones, where extreme poverty and widespread lawlessness means that the looting of larger domestic livestock is commonplace," the group said in a statement.

The furry animals have other advantages: they can be fed kitchen waste and are a relatively low-cost investment compared to other livestock. Crucially, they reproduce quickly, with females giving birth to multiple litters that total 10 to 15 offspring per year.

"They also suffer from fewer diseases than pigs, chickens and rabbits, and in the event of disease outbreaks, their high reproduction rate means populations have a much shorter recovery time," the group said.

Guinea pigs are widely eaten in parts of South America, notably Peru. The taste of the rodent has been compared to pork, dark chicken meat and rabbit. The rodents are not a common sight in rural Congolese households, unlike chickens, goats and other domesticated animals.

CIAT scientists have been investigating ways to boost livestock production through a project funded by the German government which had originally targeted pork and poultry. It has now been expanded to include guinea pigs, with trials underway in four South Kivu villages to try to find ways to improve the quantity and quality of the meat.

"None of the scientists had contemplated guinea pigs as an option in (Congo) when the project started," said CIAT's Michael Peters. "Now they really could turn out to be indispensable."

Cat stew lover skewered in Italy

ROME (AP)—Italian state TV has suspended a cooking show host who shocked the nation by saying cat stew is a Tuscan delicacy he swears he has enjoyed many times.

RAI TV confirmed on Wednesday that it had suspended Beppe Bigazzi, the 77-year-old host of a popular morning program that offers food tips and recipes in a country fiercely proud of its cuisine.

When his 27-year-old female co-host looked stunned as Bigazzi said he has eaten cat stew "many times," the white-haired, grandfather figure defended his tastes.

"Why, people maybe don't eat rabbit, chicken, pigeon?" Bigazzi said. He could have added horse meat, which many butchers and supermarket meat departments stock.

"Who's not fat, kills the cat," is how Bigazzi began his lighthearted prattle about cat stew.

Bigazzi claimed cat stew was a Tuscan specialty near the Arno river valley, but co-host Elisa Isoardi looked so embarrassed she ducked behind a cart of fresh salad greens whose healthy virtues the two were supposed to be chatting about.

Bigazzi

"Cat, soaked for three days in the running water of a stream" in Tuscany "comes out with its meat white, and I assure you—I have eaten it many times—that it is a delicacy," Bigazzi continued.

His critics included Health Ministry Undersecretary Francesca Martini.

"Cats are pets protected by law," Martini noted, specifically against "cruelty, maltreatment and abandonment."

She lamented in a statement issued by the Health Ministry that Bigazzi's advocating cat stew "hurts sensibility, which is fortunately steadily growing, of citizens toward animals."

The director of the RAI channel the show runs on, Mauro Mazza, called the decision to suspend Bigazzi for an unspecified amount of time as "painful but inevitable."

Only a few moments after revealing his startling recipe, Bigazzi seemed to anticipate he would be barraged with criticism. "Now there will be letters from nature lovers. Why don't they defend rabbits?" he asked.

By Wednesday, two days after the showed was broadcast, the YouTube video clip had recorded more than 55,000 hits, and more than 800 comments registered.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Wis. man finds stolen iPhone through GPS

OAK CREEK, Wis. (AP)—A man whose iPhone was stolen from his car used GPS to track it down. Tiernan Paine left a $400 phone in his unlocked car while at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Oak Creek on Thursday night. The 28-year-old subscribes to MobileMe, a service that synchronizes data between his phone and home computer. It also includes a global positioning system. Paine told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that he pinpointed his phone's location and saw a picture of the suspect's home. Paine took the material to Oak Creek police. The next day, he and another church member who also had a phone stolen that night had their phones back. Police Chief Tom Bauer said the suspect confessed to about six thefts from parked cars.

Police: Robin Hood charged with identity theft

DENVER (AP)—This Robin Hood is accused of stealing—and not to give to the poor. Authorities said a 34-year-old named Robin Joshua Hood found someone's wallet in downtown Denver and apparently began using the man's name in a ploy to avoid being caught on a warrant. Hood told investigators he was being investigated for drug charges. Hood was charged Friday with identity theft and impersonation. Authorities said Hood's true identity was uncovered after an employee at a record store stopped him as he allegedly was leaving without paying for three baseball caps on Jan. 6. He was issued a court summons in that case.

RI students get free breakfast, but suspended too

WEST WARWICK, R.I. (AP)—Dozens of students from a Rhode Island high school who skipped classes for a free breakfast at Denny's got grand slammed with suspensions. Officials at West Warwick High School tell The Providence Journal that 46 students went to Denny's in Warwick on Feb. 9 to take advantage of a free "Grand Slam" breakfast. Assistant Principal Paula Santos got wind of the outing and drove to the restaurant to tell the students to go to school. Principal Karen Tarasevich says students who immediately went back were dismissed with a suspension mark on their records. Those who didn't return got two-day suspensions. Tarasevich says she cracked down because last year students did the same thing, and one was involved in a car crash as he returned to school.

Woman who demanded conjugal visit charged with DUI

BUNNELL, Fla. (AP)—A woman was charged with driving under the influence after showing up at the Flagler County jail and demanding a conjugal visit with a specific inmate. The sheriff's office reports that a 45-year-old woman had a visitation appointment but was turned away because she was late. Also, the jail does not allow conjugal visits. The woman drove away but reportedly returned a short time later. Jail guards called road patrol, because they suspected the woman had been drinking. Deputies found the woman sitting in her car. She reportedly failed a field sobriety test, and a breath test showed her blood-alcohol content was 0.256 percent. Florida law considers a person impaired at 0.08. The woman was charged with DUI and later released on $500 bail.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DPL-061

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: MARCH 09, 2010 • TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) HP DESIGN JET T1120 HD MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ OSCAR M. BABAUTA
ACTING SECRETARY OF DPL

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP: 2010-CDA-06-RFP

CLOSING DATE: Friday, March 19, 2010
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"APPRAISAL OF CDA'S PROPERTIES"

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, WAKIN'S BLDG., GUALO RAI, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff,	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0505**
-v-	
ALEINA D. HOFSCHNEIDER, ALVIN U. HOFSCHNEIDER, and LOUISE C. HOFSCHNEIDER, Defendants.	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFFENDANTS, ALVIN U. HOFSCHNEIDER AND LOUISE C. HOFSCHNEIDER:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Dated, this 23rd day of January, 2010.

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D. Torres Building, Garapan
P. O. Box 504340
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 • Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ISLA FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., Plaintiff,	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0120**
vs.	
HENRY M. SABLAN and BERNADITA P. SABLAN, Defendants.	**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, by virtue of a Default Judgment and Order entered on October 23, 2009, in favor of Plaintiff, Isla Financial Services, Inc., against Defendants, Henry M. Sablan and Bernadita P. Sablan, and the Court ordering a public sale, pursuant to 2 CMC Section 4537 (e), of Defendants mortgaged right, title, interest and claim in and to real property and all improvements thereon situated in San Vicente, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described as follows:

Real property situated in Finasisu, Saipan Described as Tract 22507-26

Now known as:

Tract 22507New-1, (part of Tract 22507New, part of Tract 22507-26 and a portion of the former Tract 22507-21, part of Tract 22507-R2, part of Tract 22507-R1, part of original Tract 22507, AH 250), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2012/09, the original of which was recorded January 7, 2009 as Document No. 09-0011 at Commonwealth Recorders, Saipan.

The undersigned will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, Defendants right, title, and interest in and to the above-described property, for cash, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow.

1. **Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The sale is open to the general public (including the Defendants), and will be held on **Friday, February 26, 2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m. at the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, 2nd Floor of the D. Torres Building in Garapan, Saipan.** Registration for the auction sale will begin at 1:00 p.m.

2. **Inspection of Property.** It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure of the bidder to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by a bidder.

3. **Warranties and Covenants.** The real property listed in this Notice will be sold in its current condition **"as-is-where-is"** as of the date of sale. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of merchantability, and/or title of fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the real property listed, or for any defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof. The real property listed is being sold subject to all existing covenants, conditions, restrictions, reservations, exploration rights, easements, rights of way, assessments, zoning, and all other land use restrictions. And, the real property listed is being sold subject to the undersigned=s acceptance of any bid.

4. **Conduct of Sale.**
   a. RESERVE. The sale may be held without reserve, meaning a minimum price. Any reserve price on the real property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
   b. BIDS. The auction will be open, oral and verbal. Advance bids for the real property listed in this Notice may be submitted in writing in advance of the auction date and time and delivered to **Auctioneer, Micheline W. Brel, at the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Garapan, Saipan.** The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or error in delivery of advance bids. The highest advance bid will be the opening bid. The amount of increment to increase bids and the decision as to naming who is the high bidder will be at the direction and sole discretion of the undersigned. The highest bid made at the auction, and accepted by the undersigned, shall be considered an agreement by the bidder to buy the real property and that bid amount shall be final.
   c. DISPUTES. The undersigned may resubmit any real property listed in this Notice, if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.
   d. DEPOSIT. Immediately after a sale is consummated the successful bidder must pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price. Payment shall be in cash, certified check, Cashiers Check or Money Order. The balance of 90% must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of the **Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger,** within seventy-two (72) hours from the time of sale, in cash or cash equivalent. If the full balance of 90% is not paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages and may again offer for sale the above listed real property.
   e. MEMORANDUM. If requested by the undersigned, a successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale immediately after the sale of the listed real property is struck at auction. All sales are final and there are no refunds.

5. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the CNMI governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties: (1) To withdraw the real property listed in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such real property is accepted; (2) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the real property is struck off; (3) To offer the real property listed in any order it may choose; and (4) To reject, on behalf of the Plaintiff, any and all bids for any reason. The exercise of any of these four rights and duties will be without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby.

6. **Court Approval Required.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to Court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of Court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when Court approval is granted or rejected.

7. **Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, before the auction date and time or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 9th day of February, 2010.

/s/ Micheline W. Brel
MICHELINE W. BREL, Auctioneer
P.O. Box 505710, Saipan
Tel: (670) 235-8064, 287-6424
Fax: 235-8070
E-mail: michbrel@hotmail.com

Science & Technology

Astronauts take call from admiring President Obama

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—With their construction work finished, the 11 astronauts aboard the shuttle-station complex accepted congratulations Wednesday from President Barack Obama, who assured them of his "unwavering" commitment to NASA.

The VIP call came just hours after the two crews threw open the shutters on the International Space Station's big new bay window. They were still reveling in "this new grand view that we have of the world below us," as the station's skipper, Jeffrey Williams put it.

The seven-windowed lookout is part of a space station addition named Tranquility that was put on last week.

"I just wanted to let you guys know how proud we are of all of you," Obama said. "Everybody here back home is excited about this bay on the world that you guys are opening up. And Stephen Colbert at least is excited about his treadmill."

Last year, the TV comedian campaigned to have the new room named after himself and even won the online vote. But NASA couldn't bring itself to have a module named Colbert and offered up the latest in space treadmills instead. The name Tranquility comes from the dusty lunar sea where Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed more than 40 years ago.

Surrounded by schoolchildren with an engineering bent, Obama noted "the amazing work" being done on the space station by multiple nations. It is "a testimony to why continued space exploration is so important and is part of the reason why my commitment to NASA is unwavering," he said.

Obama did not mention his recent decision to cancel NASA's back-to-the-moon program, Constellation—a controversial verdict within the aerospace community. He also offered no hints as to where astronauts might venture next, following the space station era.

Four more shuttle flights remain. After that, the space station will have to rely on visiting capsules and supply ships from other countries. The orbiting outpost, at least, won a reprieve under the Obama budget plan; its working lifetime was extended to 2020.

The middle school students asked the astronauts about the possibility of creating artificial gravity in space and the range of emotions experienced up there. They also wanted to know what landmarks were visible from the astronauts' 220-mile-high perch and whether weather could be observed, like the Washington blizzard. The answers: no artificial gravity yet, joy and a sense of wonder, the Golden Gate Bridge and New York City skyscrapers, and storm aftermaths and cloud formations.

Obama noted that climate monitoring was going to be big on everyone's radar from now on.

Following the 20-minute call, the astronauts resumed work inside Tranquility and the attached lookout, together totaling more than $400 million in European contributions.

The astronauts needed to move a water-recycling system into Tranquility, as well as an oxygen generator and toilet. NASA gave the shuttle crew an extra day at the orbiting outpost to get all this done. The observation deck was supposed to get a robotic work station early Thursday, but the work was put off until after the shuttle's departure because of structural interference.

Endeavour will undock from the space station Friday and return to Earth on Sunday, two weeks after blasting off.

AP

President Barack Obama is pictured with students as he speaks to astronauts on the International Space Station, seen on screen, from the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010.

Microsoft to pull Facebook, MySpace into Outlook

SEATTLE (AP)—Microsoft Corp. is taking another step toward turning Outlook, its desktop e-mail program, into a hub for information from popular social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace.

Microsoft's "beta" test version of the Outlook Social Connector, an add-on for Outlook, was first discussed last November. When a user clicks to read an e-mail message, a new pane on the main e-mail reading screen fills with the sender's most recent social-networking activities. That could be that sender's new Facebook status update or a newly added professional contact on the business networking site LinkedIn.

On Wednesday, Microsoft updated the Social Connector software, and LinkedIn released the first outside plug-in for the feature.

Microsoft has a mixed record when it comes to Web trends. The company's free Hotmail and Windows Live Messenger programs are widely used, but its Windows Live blog and social network didn't pick up much steam in the face of competition from Facebook. In this case, a small startup called Xobni has already built an Outlook add-on that combines inbox search with content from Facebook, LinkedIn and others.

Microsoft's software also treats Outlook itself as a social network. If the e-mail sender and recipient are jointly working on a document stored on a company's Sharepoint server, both will see updates if one logs on to make edits.

For now, the software doesn't let people use Outlook to push information back up to LinkedIn, Facebook or other sites.

People using Office 2003, 2007 and beta versions of Office 2010 can download the updated Outlook Social Connector beta from Microsoft and then visit LinkedIn for the add-on software.

Microsoft said the Facebook and MySpace plug-ins will be ready for download by the time Office 2010 goes on sale in June.

Will Kennedy, a corporate vice president for the Office group, said some of Microsoft's business customers have expressed concern that employees will become less productive if they have all this extra information at their fingertips.

But Kennedy sees business-friendly uses for the Social Connector. He thinks it could speed up processes that require approval from a string of people, because each person in that chain could see when it's time for him or her to weigh in.

"We don't want this to sort of be the next great time waster in the workplace," he said.

Tablets, smartbooks aim to fill PC-phone gap

AP

A new notebook "Airlife 100" by Compac is displayed at the Mobile World congress in Barcelona, Spain, Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010.

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—If you've got a car and a bicycle, do you need a motorcycle too? Wireless carriers are betting that you do. They're making a big push this year for the motorcycles of the gadget world: devices that are bigger than a phone but smaller than a laptop.

The most famous entrant in the category is Apple Inc.'s iPad, which comes out next month. But many other manufacturers are crowding into the niche, and were planning to do so even before Apple's announcement in January.

Some of them are making keyboard-less "tablet" computers in the vein of the iPad. Others are making small laptop-like things known as "smartbooks" that will sell for a few hundred dollars.

Hewlett-Packard Co. showed its first smartbook this week in Barcelona at Mobile World Congress, the world's largest cell phone trade show. At first glance, HP's Compaq AirLife 100 looks just like a netbook—a small laptop—but the inner workings are quite different.

Rather than using Microsoft Corp.'s Windows software, the smartbook runs Android, which Google Inc. created for mobile devices and gives away for free. Rather than using a computer processor from Intel Corp. or Advanced Micro Devices Inc., the AirLife uses a chip from Qualcomm Inc. that has cell phone heritage.

The AirLife works somewhat like a cell phone as well: It's ready to use as soon as you flip the lid open. Like a phone, it receives your e-mail even when it's in standby mode with the lid closed. Because the Qualcomm chip uses a lot less power than a PC chip, HP says the AirLife can be used for 12 hours between charging.

Smartbooks are like cell phones in another way: Wireless carriers will sell them. Spain's Telefonica will sell the AirLife in Europe and Latin America sometime this spring. There are no plans for a U.S. launch, but HP competitor Lenovo Group has revealed a very similar device, the Skylight, which AT&T Inc. will carry in the U.S. (AT&T will also provide wireless broadband service for the iPad.)

The carriers will sell smartbooks because the devices have built-in modems for Internet access on cellular networks. That means they'll usually come with a monthly service fee, in exchange for which carriers will subsidize the purchase prices, perhaps in the $200 to $400 range. (AT&T and Telefonica have not announced their prices yet.)

Dell Inc. is using the same technology—Android software running on a Qualcomm chip—for a tablet computer with a touch screen that is 5 inches on the diagonal. An iPhone screen is 3.5 inches, so the Mini 5 is reminiscent of a big iPhone. It's set to be released in the U.S. later this year.

TECHNOLOGY BRIEFS

Google donates $2 million to support Wikipedia

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google Inc., the Internet's most profitable company, is giving $2 million to support Wikipedia, a volunteer-driven reference tool that has emerged as one of the Web's most-read sites. The donation announced Wednesday matches the largest grant made so far to Wikimedia Foundation, the nonprofit group that oversees the 7-year-old Wikipedia. Ebay founder Pierre Omidyar also donated $2 million to Wikimedia six months ago through one of his investment arms. The latest largesse has catapulted Wikimedia beyond its $10.6 million revenue target for its fiscal year ending in June. That goal had looked ambitious, given that it represented an increase of more than 20 percent from $8.7 million a year earlier.

Verizon to allow Skype calls over wireless network

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Verizon Wireless will let customers use the Internet phone service Skype to make free calls on some phones, an application that wireless carriers have been slow to allow. Under a deal announced Tuesday at the Mobile World Congress trade show, users of some Verizon phones who have a voice and data plan will be able to download a free Skype application in late March. That will let them call or instant-message other Skype users for free or call regular phone numbers outside the United States for a fee paid to Skype. These calls would go over Verizon's network and would not use up minutes on a cell phone plan.

HP net jumps 25 percent on cost cuts, PC strength

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Hewlett-Packard Co.'s latest numbers show that corporations are spending more on technology in 2010 than they did last year—but only on certain things so far. Businesses are bulking up on their back-end computing power. Sales of servers were up in HP's November-January fiscal first quarter, an encouraging sign for a part of the technology world that was hammered by the recession. Another good sign for the industry: HP's sales of personal computers were also up. However, a lot of that growth was driven by consumers lured by the rollout of PCs loaded with Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 7 operating software.

Life & Style

Alexander McQueen
hanged himself in London home

LONDON (AP)—A bereaved Alexander McQueen left a note, then hanged himself in his apartment on the eve of his mother's funeral, a coroner's inquest said Wednesday, giving the cause of the fashion designer's death as asphyxiation and hanging.

The inquest has yet to formally deliver a ruling of suicide, but police said there were no suspicious circumstances.

Coroner's official Lynda Martindill told the inquest at Westminster Coroner's Court that the body of 40-year-old McQueen was found in an armoire at his London apartment on Thursday. In the dispassionate language of the inquest, she referred to him as "a single man, a fashion designer."

Days before he died, McQueen had left several messages on the social networking site Twitter revealing his grief at his mother's recent death.

Police detective inspector Paul Armstrong told the inquest there were no suspicious circumstances. He gave the note found at the scene to coroner Paul Knapman but did not disclose its contents.

After a five-minute hearing, the coroner adjourned the inquest until April 28. Full details of the autopsy also will be available in a few months.

McQueen's family, who are now free to hold the designer's funeral, issued a statement through their lawyers appealing to the media to respect their privacy following their "grievous double loss."

They have not released details of the funeral.

In Britain, inquests are held whenever someone dies violently or in unexplained circumstances.

McQueen's death has cast a shadow over London Fashion Week, which opens on Friday. A spokeswoman said the event would feature a tribute to the designer, whose attention-grabbing designs helped re-energize British fashion after a fallow period following the punk explosion in the 1970s.

"There will be something simple and tasteful," she said. "The time for memorials will be later in the year."

She spoke on condition of anonymity because organizers are waiting for McQueen's family to approve the tribute.

Known for his dramatic statement pieces and impeccable tailoring, McQueen dressed celebrities from Cameron Diaz to Lady Gaga and influenced a generation of designers.

He was named British Designer of the Year four times and awarded the title of CBE—Commander of the Order of the British Empire—by Queen Elizabeth II.

Unlike many fashionistas, he came from a working-class background. The son of a cab driver, McQueen grew up on a public housing estate in London's East End, left school at 16 and entered the fashion world the old-fashioned way, as a teenage apprentice to a Saville Row tailor. He later studied at Central St. Martin's art college in London and was discovered by fashion guru Isabella Blow, who bought his entire graduation collection. She became a friend and mentor; her suicide three years ago shook the designer, who wept openly at her funeral.

AP

This Monday, June 2, 2003 file photo shows Alexander McQueen posing for photographers after winning the International Award at the 2003 Council of Fashion Design Awards held in New York.

McQueen was a private man who avoided the limelight, but his Twitter postings show emotional turmoil after his mother's death on Feb. 2. McQueen had posted messages four days before his death about his "awful week," and said he had to "somehow pull myself together and finish."

His mother's funeral was held the day after McQueen died.

Friends also said he might have felt under pressure to outdo himself at the unveiling of his new collection in Paris next month.

"I don't think success was easy for him," friend Plum Sykes wrote in the Sunday Telegraph this week. "He told me he was driven by his insecurities, and he believed that all successful people were."

McQueen became chief designer at the Givenchy house in 1996, but was best known for his own label, in which Gucci bought a majority stake in 2001. McQueen retained creative control, and became famous for his dramatic and often uncategorizable creations: sculptural cocktail dresses in psychedelic patterns; headwear made of trash; 10-inch (25 centimeter) heels shaped like lobster claws.

His shows were highly theatrical events, incorporating film and historical references and innovative technology—including, at one memorable 2006 show, an appearance by Kate Moss in hologram form.

His outrageous pieces never sold in great numbers, but he became one of fashion's best-known brands. He designed the outfit Janet Jackson was wearing when she had her breast-baring "wardrobe malfunction" at the 2004 Super Bowl.

Colbert Nation: another country shows at Olympics

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Bringing his nation to the Winter Olympics, Stephen Colbert made peace with Canada, sang with Michael Buble and persuaded Bob Costas to climb aboard a stuffed moose.

Then he got down to cheering the U.S. speedskaters he helped bail out.

The Colbert Nation arrived at the Vancouver Games on Wednesday for a taping of his faux talk show in a most un-winterlike setting: a muddy park along the downtown waterfront on a morning that turned out sunny and unseasonably warm. In the afternoon, he headed to the Olympic Oval in suburban Richmond to chat with several U.S. skaters before the men's 1,000 meters, in which American world-record holder Shani Davis was favored to win gold.

Colbert proudly wore yet another title on the back of his red jacket—"assistant sports psychologist," which he can now add to Sir (he was knighted, sort of, by Jordan's Queen Noor) and Dr. (owing to an honorary degree in fine arts that he uses to dispense medical advice).

The host of "The Colbert Report," a late-night show in which he portrays a dimwitted conservative pundit, formed an unlikely alliance with U.S. Speedskating after its main sponsor went bust. Colbert's fans stepped in to donate more than $300,000 to the program, and it was only natural he would attend the Olympics after getting so much comic fodder out of it the past few months.

AP

Comedian Stephen Colbert holds a pair of skis during a taping of the Stephen Colbert Show at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010.

Colbert started a mock feud with Canada, calling them "syrup suckers" and "iceholes," but he seemed to have plenty of fans north of the border judging by several thousand who turned out at Creekside Park to watch him conduct interviews with Buble, Costas and 1980 hockey gold medalist Mike Eruzione from a temporary stage adorned with a moose, totem pole and stuffed beaver.

"Stephen! Stephen! Stephen!" the crowd chanted, one of them holding up a sign that said "Colbert for Prime Minister."

"This is a welcome we couldn't have imagined in our wildest dreams," Colbert said. "I take back everything I've said about Canada."

Working on bits that will air on future shows, Colbert persuaded Buble to join him in a rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner," sung to the tune of "O Canada."

"I'll bite: Why Canada?" Colbert asked the Canadian singer, staying in character all the way. "Why not just more United States?"

Eruzione, who scored the winning goal for the U.S. in its epic upset of the Soviet Union at the 1980 Lake Placid Games, was up next. His exploits led to a natural question: How many times has he been offered pot since arriving in cannabis-friendly British Columbia.

"Twice," Eruzione said. "Last night and this morning when I woke up."

Costas was introduced by Colbert as "the host of NBC's $820 million Olympic coverage, but I got him at a discount." The diminutive sportscaster had barely gotten on stage when the crowd started chanting "Ride the moose! Ride the moose! Ride the moose!"

"Don't worry, he'll ride the moose," Colbert said, flashing a grin. "Let him talk for a few minutes first."

The crowd groaned when Costas refused to anoint Vancouver as the best Olympic host city he's seen.

"I do my pandering between 8 and midnight Eastern time for a higher price than this," he said.

But Costas won them back by going along with the moose gag, struggling to swing his left leg over the animal while Colbert held it around the neck, preventing it from tipping over.

Colbert also showed a Canadian-ized version of his popular segment "Better Know a District," in which he humorously profiles U.S. congressional districts and also interviews their elected representatives.

For "Better Know A Riding" (the Canadian term for parliament districts), Colbert had taped an interview with Ujjal Dosanjh, a Liberal MP for Vancouver South. Unfortunately, two video screens that had been set up on each side of the stage could not be seen by most of the crowd because of the blinding sun.

US Sen. Evan Bayh to appear on 'The View'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—ABC says Evan Bayh will be a guest next week on "The View," his first live talk show appearance since announcing he won't seek re-election to the U.S. Senate.

The Democratic senator from Indiana will be interviewed by Barbara Walters and the other hosts of "The View" on Monday, Feb. 22.

The 54-year-old Bayh said this week he wouldn't seek a third Senate term in 2010, citing the bitter partisan divides that have dominated Congress in recent years. He joins an exodus of Washington lawmakers that includes both Democrats and Republicans.

"The View" airs daily at 11 a.m. EST on ABC.

Tijuca crowned Rio Carnival parade champs

AP
In this picture taken Monday, Feb. 15, 2010, dancers from the Unidos da Tijuca perform during carnival celebrations at the Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro.

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A samba group that enraged child-welfare advocates by choosing a 7-year-old as a drums corps queen finished last Wednesday in the extravagant parade competition, relegating them to the minor leagues next year.

Julia Lira, daughter of Viradouro samba group president Marco Lira, was reduced to tears under the intense focus of photographers and television cameras but eventually danced on at the helm of the parade early Monday.

The role of drums corps queen is normally reserved for sensuous models and actresses. A Rio state child welfare agency asked a judge to block her participation, but that move was rejected by a court.

The samba groups are judged by 10 criteria, one of which is the drum corps. Viradouro placed last out of 12 schools in the drum corps category, and scored even lower in the float category.

The Unidos da Tijuca samba group was crowned champion of the Rio Carnival parades for the first time in more than seven decades.

Tijuca's winning theme was "It's a Secret" and the elaborate parade examined mysteries such as the Bermuda Triangle, ancient lost civilizations and even the so-called Area 51 in the U.S.

More than 3,600 people took part in the presentation, which included an homage to Michael Jackson. One of the group's favorite floats was a giant ski ramp, which men dressed as Spiderman climbed and others in Batman uniforms skied down.

Tijuca last won in 1936 and their victory set off wild partying at their headquarters in northern Rio.

"It was a beautiful Carnival and my congratulations to all the other groups," said Tijuca's artistic director Paulo Barros. "But this one is ours!"

The parades are fiercely competitive and watched by millions on live television across Brazil. Each group spends between $3 million and $5 million.

The winning group receives no monetary prize—just a trophy and bragging rights for a year.

Group of 7-year-old queen last in Rio Carnival

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A samba group that enraged child-welfare advocates by choosing a 7-year-old as a drums corps queen finished last Wednesday in the extravagant parade competition, relegating them to the minor leagues next year.

Julia Lira, daughter of Viradouro samba group president Marco Lira, was reduced to tears under the intense focus of photographers and television cameras but eventually danced on at the helm of the parade early Monday.

The role of drums corps queen is normally reserved for sensuous models and actresses. A Rio state child welfare agency asked a judge to block her participation, but that move was rejected by a court.

The samba groups are judged by 10 criteria, one of which is the drum corps. Viradouro placed last out of 12 schools in the drum corps category, and scored even lower in the float category.

The Unidos da Tijuca samba group was crowned champion of the Rio Carnival parades for the first time in more than seven decades.

Tijuca's winning theme was "It's a Secret" and the elaborate parade examined mysteries such as the Bermuda Triangle, ancient lost civilizations and even the so-called Area 51 in the U.S.

More than 3,600 people took part in the presentation, which included an homage to Michael Jackson. One of the group's favorite floats was a giant ski ramp, which men dressed as Spiderman climbed and others in Batman uniforms skied down.

Tijuca last won in 1936 and their victory set off wild partying at their headquarters in northern Rio.

"It was a beautiful Carnival and my congratulations to all the other groups," said Tijuca's artistic director Paulo Barros. "But this one is ours!"

The parades are fiercely competitive and watched by millions on live television across Brazil. Each group spends between $3 million and $5 million.

The winning group receives no monetary prize—just a trophy and bragging rights for a year.

In Celebration of Her New Life

Maria Arriola Benavente Atalig

May 19, 1935 — February 14, 2010

In her new life, she now joins her:
Parents: Ignacio Villagomez & Rita Arriola Benavente
Daughter: Phyllis Atalig Leuta
Brother: Jose Arriola Benavente
Sister: Trinidad Arriola Benavente
Sister-In-Law: Magdalena C. Benavente
Niece & Nephews: Norbert, Francisca & Paul Lee Camacho

She is survived by her:
Former-Husband: Felipe Quitugua Atalig
Son-in-law: Masina Leuta

Children:
Ron B. and Anne S. Atalig (Roanne Isa and Ron Napu)
Eric B. Atalig, Kelley and Jordan Butcher (Kayla and Brent Parsons, Eric Devin and Kianna)

Grand Children:
Phyllisina L. and Calistro Reyes, Jr. (Toa, Malosi & Vaaina Eling)
Vaaia Leuta and Andrew Duenas (Mitiana)
Tanielu A. Leuta and Tavita A. Leuta

Caregiver: Nelsie Lasaga

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
Martina K. Benavente & Family
Eleuterio A. Benavente
Dolores B. Camacho & Family
Veronica A. Benavente
Irmina B. Cox & Family
Estanislao A. and Abelina Benavente & Family
Luis A. and Susan Benavente & Family

Daily Mass is being offered at 6 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral. St. Jude Church at 6:00 p.m. Rosary immediately following the evening Mass.

On Monday, February 22, 2010, viewing will be at Borja Funeral Home from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 10:00a.m. Interment service at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Your Prayers is greatly appreciated.

From The Family

In Loving Memory of

MARCELINA ATALIG TAITANO

"Marcy/Minang"
February 23, 1948 - February 15, 2010
of Rota was called to her eternal rest at the age of 61

In her new life she now joins her:
Father: Pedro T. Taitano
Brother: Jose A. Taitano
Sisters: Sophia A. Taitano
Donicia A. Taitano
Nephew: Woodward T. Castro

Her love and memories will remain forever within the hearts of her:
Mother: Rosa Atalig Taitano
Brothers/Sisters & In-Laws:
†Jose A. & Rosario Taitano
Serafin A. & Janice Taitano
Crispin A. Taitano
Joaquin A. & Eleanor Taitano
Maria T. & Mel Uy
Flora T. & Ramon Castro
Carina T. & Paul Wachtler
Joaquina T. & Romeo Galinato
Abelina T. & Fidel Mendiola Jr.

She will be additionally missed by her nieces, nephews, godchildren, relatives and friends.

Nightly Rosary is being held at the San Francisco De Borja Church in Songsong village at 7:00 p.m. and will end on Feb. 23, 2010.

Viewing and Last Respects may be paid from 7:00 am to 8:00 am on Feb. 23, 2010 at the Divine Mercy Chapel at the Rota Health Center.

Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 8:30 am, at the San Francisco De Borja Church, Rota.

Interment services will follow immediately at the San Jose Cemetary, Songsong village, Rota.

Thank You for all your prayers

The Family

'Harry Potter' author hit with plagiarism lawsuit

SYDNEY (AP)—J.K. Rowling has been named in a lawsuit alleging she stole ideas for her wildly popular and lucrative "Harry Potter" books from another British author.

The estate of the late Adrian Jacobs on Wednesday added Rowling as a defendant in a lawsuit it filed in June against Bloomsbury Publishing PLC for alleged copyright infringement, according to a statement released by the estate's representatives, who are based in Australia.

The lawsuit, filed in a London court, claims Rowling's book "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" copied substantial parts of Jacobs' 1987 book, "The Adventures of Willy the Wizard—No. 1 Livid Land." Jacobs' estate also claims that many other ideas from "Willy the Wizard" were copied into the "Harry Potter" books. Jacobs died in London in 1997.

AP

In this July 8, 2000 file photo, Harry Potter fan Sean Brennan, 10, looks at J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," the newest Harry Potter book, moments after buying it when it went on sale at midnight at the Barnes and Noble in Calabasas, Calif.

"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" is the fourth book in Rowling's series and was published in July 2000.

Sydney agent Max Markson, who is representing the trustee of Jacobs' estate, Paul Allen, said Rowling was added to the lawsuit after Allen learned that the statute of limitations to sue her had not run out, as previously thought.

"I estimate it's a billion-dollar case," Markson said Thursday. "That'll be the decision of the courts, obviously."

There was no immediate comment from Rowling. In June, Bloomsbury said the allegation that Rowling lifted from Jacobs' work was "unfounded, unsubstantiated and untrue." Bloomsbury said Jacobs' estate first approached the company in 2004 with its claims, but was unable to identify any text in the "Harry Potter" books that was copied from "Willy the Wizard."

In a statement, Allen said the estate is also seeking legal advice on whether the Harry Potter films and soon-to-be-opened Harry Potter theme park breach copyright law.

Olympics help NBC skate to the top of the ratings

NEW YORK (AP)—The first three nights of the Vancouver Olympics helped make NBC the audience favorite last week, but viewers also flocked to Fox for another kind of competition on "American Idol."

Friday's Opening Ceremony of the Winter Olympics was the most-watched program of the week, seen by nearly 33 million viewers. Prime-time coverage on Sunday and Saturday ranked third and fourth, respectively.

But Tuesday's "American Idol" ranked second for the week, and Wednesday's episode of the show ranked fifth, the Nielsen Co. said.

Overall, NBC won last week with an average of 16.1 million viewers (8.9 rating, 14 share), and could be in for two more weeks of Olympics dominance.

In second place was CBS, averaging 10.6 million viewers (6.5 rating, 10 share) with a slate of robust scripted dramas and comedies, as well as the strong season premiere of "Survivor" and the new reality series "Undercover Boss."

Third-place Fox had 10.1 million (5.8 rating, 9 share) average viewers, while ABC had 6.6 million (4.1 rating, 7 share), the CW had 1.8 million (1.2 rating, 2 share) and ION Television had 1.1 million (0.7 rating, 1 share).

Among the Spanish-language networks, Univision led the way with an average of 3.6 million viewers (1.8 rating, 3 share), while TeleFutura had 1.12 million (0.5 rating, 1 share), Telemundo had 1.06 million (0.5 rating, 1 share) and Azteca had 190,000 (0.1 rating, 0 share).

'Funny Or Die' leaps to TV in new HBO series

NEW YORK (AP)—Will Ferrell and Adam McKay forged their partnership years ago on "Saturday Night Live." Now, in a much different way, the two are back on TV with a sketch comedy show.

On Friday at midnight, HBO will premiere "Funny or Die Presents," a new half hour series that compiles clips from the comedy video Web site that McKay and Ferrell co-created in 2007.

The show arrives as part of a new batch of HBO comedy. The Friday slate also includes the premiere of "The Ricky Gervais Show," the start of season eight of "Real Time With Bill Maher" and the second season of "The Life and Times of Tim."

"Funny or Die Presents" is the fruition of a deal hatched in 2008 between the site and HBO, which purchased a piece of FunnyOrDie.com reportedly in the neighborhood of about $10 million. There's further overlap in that HBO airs the McKay and Ferrell-produced hit "Eastbound & Down," which is prepping a second season.

AP

In this image released by the Website Funny or Die, Will Ferrell, dressed as President Abraham Lincoln, left, and Don Cheadle, dressed as Frederick Douglass are shown in a scene from a skit posted on FunnyorDie.com.

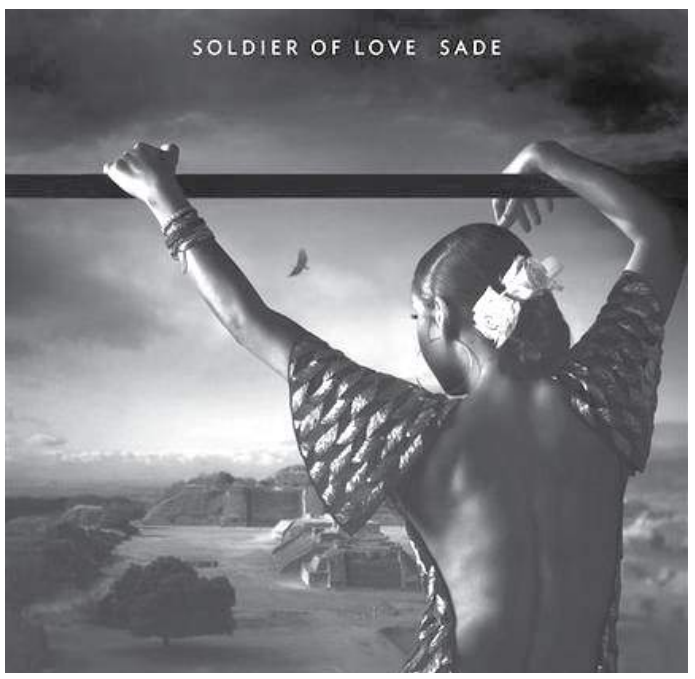
"Funny or Die Presents" represents an increasingly common fusion between Web-created content and television. When the series was announced, Ferrell sarcastically asserted the deal was "the missing link moment where TV and Internet finally merge."

New Sade CD goes gold in first week

NEW YORK (AP)—An army of fans—more than 500,000 of them—went out to support Sade's (shah-DAY') latest CD, "Soldier of Love," giving the group their first No. 1 disc in 20 years.

"Soldier of Love" sold 501,665 units in its first week, debuting on top of the Billboard 200 album charts, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

The CD is the follow-up to their Grammy-winning album "Lovers Rock," released in 2000. The group is led by 51-year-old Sade Adu (ah-DOO').



In this CD cover image released by Epic Records, Sade, "Soldier of Love" is shown.

AP

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$5.50 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$5.50 All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.50 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$5.50 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$5.50 Military with Valid I.D.

TUESDAY BARGAIN $5.50 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

For Friday, February 19th through Thursday, February 25th
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

Shutter Island

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:0	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo
Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis

Mark Ruffalo and Leonardo DiCaprio team up as a pair of U.S. Marshals who travel to a secluded island off the coast of Massachusetts to search for an escaped mental patient, uncovering a web of deception along the way as they battle the forces of nature and a prison riot in this Martin Scorsese-helmed period picture. Laeta Kalogridis adapts Dennis Lehane's novel of the same name, with Paramount Pictures and Columbia Pictures splitting production and distribution duties.

★ ★ ★

The Lightning Thief

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:30	4:20	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:30	4:20	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Logan Lerman, Pierce Brosnan
Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis

Throuble-prone Percy Jackson is having problem in high school–but that's the least of his challenges. It's the 21st century, but the gods of Mount Olympus seem to have walked out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology texts and into his life. Percy has learned that his real father is Poseidon, god of the sea, which means Percy is a demigod–half human, half god. At the same time, Zeus, the king of all gods, has accused Percy of stealing Zeus' lightning bolt…the original weapon of mass destruction.

The Wolfman

Friday		4:10	7:30	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:30	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:30	

Benicio del Toro, Anthony Hopkins
Horror • Rated R

Synopsis

Universal Studios resurrects the classic lycanthrope with this tale of an American who experiences an unsettling transformation after returning to his ancestral home in Victorian-era Great Britain and being attacked by a rampaging werewolf. His brother having recently vanished without a trace, haunted nobleman Lawrence Talbot (Benicio Del Toro) returns to his family estate to investigate. What he discovers upon reuniting with his estranged father (Anthony Hopkins), however, is a destiny far darker than his blackest nightmares.

From Paris With Love

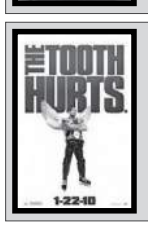
Friday		4:15	7:25	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:25	9:30
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:25	

John Travolta, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers
Crime • Rated R

Valentine's Day

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Julia Roberts, Anne Hathaway
Comedy • Rated PG 13



The Tooth Fairy

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Dwayne Johnson, Ashley Judd
Comedy Drama • Rated PG

Avatar

Friday		3:55	6:55	10:00
Saturday	12:50	3:55	6:55	10:00
Sunday	12:50	3:55	6:55	
Mon thru Thurs		3:55	6:55	

Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Man wears out his welcome in old girlfriend's new house

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 29-year-old registered nurse who has never been married. Recently I bought a home, and soon after, an old boyfriend, "Gary," started coming around. I was happy about it at first, but he's been staying here at my place for two months now and hasn't paid any rent.

Gary buys his own beer and has brought home a few grocery items from time to time, but nothing to speak of. He had the electricity turned off at his place so his expenses are minimal. He also brought along his cat, but never cleans out her litter box.

He does no housework and comes and goes as he pleases. I do not want him sharing my home without contributing anything. Is there a way to tell him without wrecking our relationship?

CANADIAN JOAN

DEAR JOAN: It appears that not only is the heat off at Gary's house, the temperature at yours is cooling fast. Tell him that if he can't help you with the rent, household chores, groceries and the litter box, it's time to turn up the heat at his place. And please don't feel guilty about it. It's called being assertive.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a freshman in high school who has trouble making friends. My grades are good. I'm learning how to play a musical instrument, and I think I'm a nice guy.

My problem is so many of my schoolmates judge others by their possessions—cell phones, iPod, laptop, etc. It matters what brand of clothing you wear and how much money you have. If you don't have those things or your parents aren't rich, you're treated as an outcast. Character or talent doesn't matter, apparently—only money. This has started affecting my self-esteem. What do you advise?

JUST A NICE GUY IN ARIZONA

DEAR NICE GUY: You will be better off, and lead a happier life, if you stop looking for acceptance from shallow, immature kids who belong to tight, judgmental little cliques. Join activities where you will meet others with values more like your own. Some places to start would be special interest clubs at school, scouting, a sport, your church youth group, or volunteering if you have some free time. There is nothing "wrong" with you. Many people develop their social skills and blossom after high school.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife has been criticizing my table manners ever since our wedding. When we're having dinner, if we're having meatloaf, broccoli and mashed potatoes, I eat all of my meatloaf and then all of my broccoli before starting on the mashed potatoes.

My wife claims it is proper etiquette to rotate one bite of each different food rather than consume all of any one of them before moving on to the next. I have never heard of this rule and neither has anyone else I have asked.

Am I violating a rule of etiquette, or is this something else my wife has "cooked up"?

RUMINATING IN RIO RANCHO, N.M.

DEAR RUMINATING: I have never heard of such a rule either, nor is it mentioned in "Emily Post's Etiquette (16th Edition)." Your wife may have cooked it up, but that doesn't mean you have to swallow it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

'American Idol' reveals top 24 semifinalists

AP

In this undated publicity image released by Fox, "American Idol" judges, from left, Simon Cowell, Ellen DeGeneres, Kara DioGuardi and Randy Jackson are shown.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's good news for Tim Urban and 23 other singers on "American Idol."

The 20-year-old college student from Duncanville, Texas, was among the 17 remaining semifinalists revealed Wednesday on the Fox singing competition after seven were unveiled Tuesday. Other semifinalists included 24-year-old sales representative Janell Wheeler from Tampa, Fla., and 24-year-old mother Crystal Bowersox from Elliston, Ohio.

Viewers may have noticed that shaggy-haired, 25-year-old shoe salesman Chris Golightly from Los Angeles was among the semifinalists on stage at the end of the episode, but it was Urban who was among the 12 dancing male semifinalists.

A Fox spokeswoman didn't immediately respond to clarify why Golightly was apparently replaced by Urban.

Kris Allen back on 'Idol' for Haiti fundraiser

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kris Allen next week will make his first appearance on "American Idol" since winning the show last year, to help raise money for earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

As part of the Fox TV show's "Idol Gives Back" charity effort, Allen will travel to Haiti with the United Nations Foundation. He'll share video from his visit and sing on the Thursday, Feb. 25, episode of "American Idol."

Fox said Wednesday that viewers will be asked to make donations online or by text-messaging, with the money going to the Idol Gives Back Foundation to help support the U.N. Foundation's work in Haiti.

"Idol Gives Back" takes place on the April 21 episode of "American Idol," raising money for five charities, including Feeding America and Malaria No More.

Jon Gosselin, TLC reach settlement in lawsuit

WASHINGTON (AP)—TLC has settled a breach of contract lawsuit against reality TV star Jon Gosselin, the network said Wednesday. TLC sued Gosselin in October, claiming he failed to meet his obligations as an exclusive employee of the network while appearing on rival networks' programs for pay and making unauthorized public disclosures about the show.

Gosselin filed a countersuit claiming TLC violated Pennsylvania's child labor laws in filming "Jon & Kate Plus 8." The show followed Gosselin, his wife, Kate, and their eight children—twins and sextuplets—at their home in Wernersville, Pa. They became tabloid fixtures when their marriage dissolved, and the show ended last year.

TLC spokeswoman Laurie Goldberg said Wednesday that all terms of the settlement are confidential and the network will take steps to conclude litigation.

The original suit was filed in Montgomery County, Md., in October. It sought unspecified compensatory damages and demanded Gosselin return income gained as a result of his alleged breaches of the agreement and refrain from future violations. In the countersuit, Gosselin sought more than $5 million in damages.

Mark Jay Heller, Gosselin's attorney, said the settlement was filed Wednesday and Gosselin did not appear in court. He said Gosselin is hopeful that the network will move forward with the "best interests" of the family.

"Jon has expressed his desire to close the litigation chapter of 'Jon & Kate Plus 8,' he said. "Sometimes litigants that kiss and make up find their relationship is much better the second time around. As Jon's attorney, I truly hope this new adventure for TLC and the Gosselins is a much more joyful journey."

AP

In this Oct. 26, 2009 file photo, Jon Gosselin leaves the Montgomery County courthouse in Norristown, Pa.

Heller did not disclose details of the agreement and would not say whether Gosselin would be allowed to appear again on the network. Asked whether the countersuit is still ongoing, he said: "All litigation has come to an end."

Goldberg, the TLC spokeswoman, said the whole Gosselin family remains under contract with the network.

"We have announced that we're working on a show with Kate," she said. "That's all that's in the works at this time."

TLC is owned by Silver Spring, Md.-based Discovery Communications.

Artists behind Oscar-nominated songs won't perform

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Some of Oscar's most memorable moments have come during performances of nominated songs.

Just remember rap group Three 6 Mafia surrounded by streetwalkers as they performed "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp" from "Hustle & Flow," and Celine Dion's resplendent performance of the "Titanic" hit, "My Heart Will Go On."

Don't expect such musical moments at the 82nd Academy Awards.

The artists behind the year's five nominated songs will not perform during the Oscar telecast. Instead, the songs will be showcased with clips from the films that featured them, "which is how most nominated achievements are featured within the show," Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences spokeswoman Leslie Unger said Wednesday.

That means Randy Newman won't get to take the stage for his two nominated tunes, "Almost There" and "Down in New Orleans" from "The Princess and the Frog."

AP

In this Jan. 17, 2010 file photo, T Bone Burnett, left, and Ryan Bingham are photographed with the award for best original song in a motion picture for "Crazy Heart" backstage at the 67th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Marion Cotillard won't reprise her sexy, heart-wrenching performance of "Take It All," written by Maury Yeston for "Nine." Reinhardt Wagner and Frank Thomas can't bring their "Loin de Paname" from "Paris 36" to life.

And "The Weary Kind (Theme from Crazy Heart)" won't be performed by "Crazy Heart" star Jeff Bridges or its writers Ryan Bingham and T Bone Burnett.

"We haven't been invited," Bingham said, seeming as bit surprised.

There will still be dancing on the show. Producer and choreographer Adam Shankman announced on his Twitter page that he cast 69 dancers for the show's production numbers, though he hasn't revealed exactly he has planned.

The Oscar troupe includes at least a dozen dancers from the Fox reality show "So You Think You Can Dance," where Shankman serves as a judge.

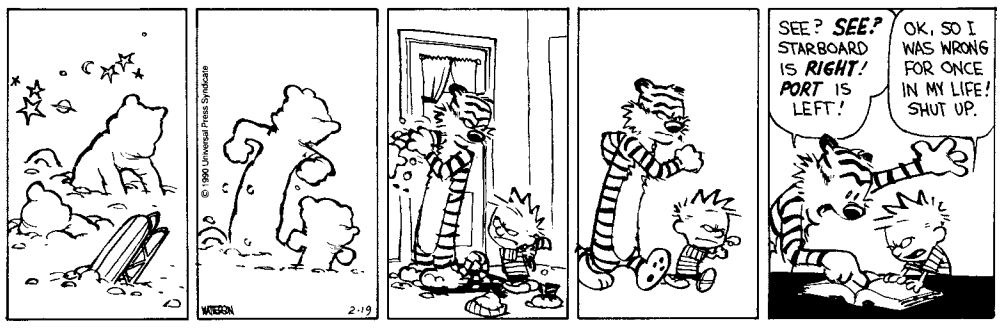
"All there for the movies!" he tweeted.

The Academy Awards will be presented March 7 at the Kodak Theatre and broadcast live on ABC.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
WATTERSON
2-19
SEE? SEE? STARBOARD IS RIGHT! PORT IS LEFT!
OK, SO I WAS WRONG FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE! SHUT UP.

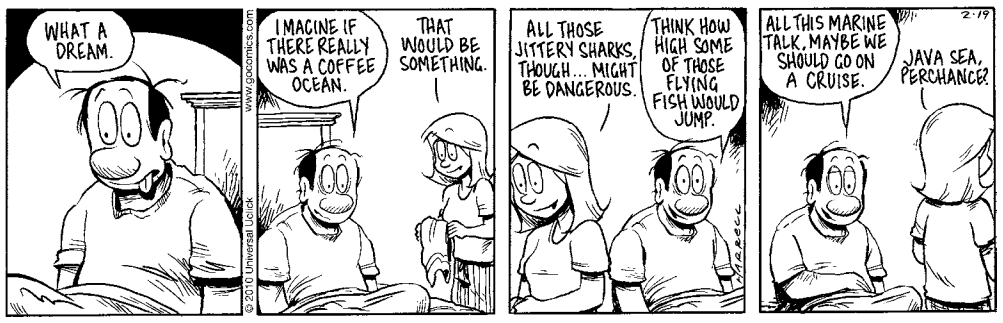
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'VE BEEN AWAKE FOR 72 HOURS!
© 2010 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
NOT IN A ROW, MIND YOU, BUT THAT'S STILL A LOT
JIM DAVIS 2-19
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT A DREAM.
I IMAGINE IF THERE REALLY WAS A COFFEE OCEAN.
THAT WOULD BE SOMETHING.
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
ALL THOSE JITTERY SHARKS, THOUGH... MIGHT BE DANGEROUS.
THINK HOW HIGH SOME OF THOSE FLYING FISH WOULD JUMP.
ALL THIS MARINE TALK, MAYBE WE SHOULD GO ON A CRUISE.
JAVA SEA, PERCHANCE?
2-19

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

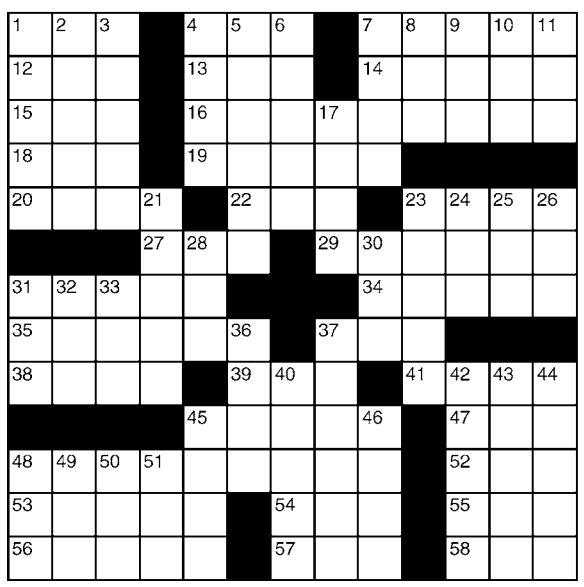
ACROSS
1 Priestly robe
4 Uncooked
7 Refuse to, quaintly
12 Up to
13 Blond shade
14 Eagle's nest
15 Sapporo sash
16 Hoard
18 Chaps
19 "1984" laborer
20 Letter opener's creation
22 Mimic
23 "— Misbehavin'"
27 Attention-getting cry
29 Lots
31 External
34 Battery inventor
35 Easy-to-build house
37 Scratch
38 Coloration
39 Honest politician
41 Redact
45 Boutique
47 Away from WSW
48 Sweden's capital
52 Conditions
53 Half-diameters
54 Mid-May honoree
55 Collection
56 That is (Latin)
57 Pigs' digs
58 Attempt

DOWN
1 Fermi's bits
2 Written slander
3 Filled, folded pancakes
4 Grate
5 Off course
6 Jubilant yell
7 Benefit
8 With it, once
9 Onassis, familiarly
10 Zero
11 Ball-bearing item
17 Chanteuse Laine
21 Robbery
23 Worship
24 Under the weather
25 Bottom line
26 Airport screeners' org.
28 Detergent brand
30 Eventual aves
31 Make up your mind
32 Swiss canton
33 Sawbuck
36 Dog owner's ordeal
37 Dry red wine
40 Times of prosperity
42 Believer of a sort
43 Draw a conclusion
44 Irritable
45 "SNL" segment
46 It long eluded Lucci
48 — Lanka
49 Youngster
50 Rhyming tribute
51 USSR successor

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	P	T	■	M	I	N	E	■	B	R	O	S
F	R	O	■	O	P	E	D	■	O	A	T	H
T	O	M	A	T	O	E	S	■	O	N	T	O
■	■	A	S	H	■	D	E	S	K	T	O	P
W	I	L	K	E	S	■	L	E	I	■	■	■
I	L	L	■	R	U	B	■	E	S	T	O	P
M	I	E	N	■	P	A	M	■	H	O	B	O
P	A	Y	E	E	■	T	O	N	■	M	O	O
■	■	■	T	N	T	■	D	O	R	M	E	R
C	R	O	W	D	E	D	■	B	U	Y	■	■
L	I	M	O	■	T	O	M	O	R	R	O	W
A	C	E	R	■	R	O	A	D	■	O	N	E
W	O	N	K	■	A	R	T	Y	■	T	O	E

Yesterday's answer 2-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Benicio Del Toro, 43; Seal, 47; Jeff Daniels, 55; Smokey Robinson, 70

Happy Birthday: You may have to backtrack before you can move forward. Doing so will help you avoid the same mistakes. An open and honest approach to all your partnerships will enable you to move things along much faster. Trust in your own judgment. A good balance between work and play will ensure a healthy attitude and physique. Your numbers are 2, 10, 13, 20, 29, 35, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19)*: Get serious about your future. Don't leave anything to chance. No one will do as good a job of selling your skills as you can. In the end, you will gain greater confidence and proof that you can excel. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Plan a trip or arrange to make changes to your living space or your personal life. Lending a helping hand or offering favors will lead to a lasting, comfortable partnership. An unexpected occurrence will cause some doubt regarding a business associate. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Play it safe and you won't be sorry. There are too many variables to take unnecessary risks. A sudden change in the way someone treats you will lead to greater uncertainty. It's important that you focus on maintaining your integrity and dignity. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't limit your choices by refusing to accept a little change. There is too much on the line for you to waffle. Love is on the rise and an interesting proposition may be exactly what you need. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Keep your emotions out of the decisions you must make. Stick to facts and take a practical approach both professionally and personally. Take a short trip if it will help you close a deal or make amends with someone. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Be open about the way you feel and how you see the future unfolding. Don't let someone from your past meddle in your affairs. Do what you can to get along with everyone but not at the sacrifice of an important relationship. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Think about what it is you want and take action. You may be enticed by someone you work with. Before heading down that path, consider the consequences. Stick with the familiar not the unknown. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Focus on your home, happiness and personal relationships. You can make positive changes that will encourage the people you love to do more and to do better. A change will be as good as a rest and can offer you a new beginning. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll face opposition no matter what you do but that doesn't mean that you shouldn't proceed. Don't get anxious about debts—find a solution and work within a budget so that you don't feel so tied down and helpless. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Taking on responsibility will impress someone considering you for a bigger and better position. If someone is angered by your choices, consider whether this relationship is to your advantage or is holding you back. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): It's important to rise to the occasion and show everyone that you have something to contribute. Your sincerity and compassion will help you overcome any problems you face. Take advantage of any chance to work more. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You have the potential to excel professionally if you share your thoughts in a very imaginative manner. Your colorful outlook and expression of speech will get your plans up and running. An emotional encounter with someone you've lost touch with will bring you greater hope that you can succeed. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are caring and affectionate. You do your best to please the people you love. You are hard-working and strong-willed.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8					5		
3			6	1				
			2					4
	6	9			4			
	5						3	
			7			8	4	
2					8			
				6	1			9
		4					6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	5	6	7	2	3	1	9
3	7	2	9	1	8	4	5	6
9	6	1	4	5	3	2	8	7
6	1	7	2	3	4	8	9	5
5	3	8	1	6	9	7	4	2
4	2	9	5	8	7	1	6	3
1	5	3	8	2	6	9	7	4
7	8	4	3	9	5	6	2	1
2	9	6	7	4	1	5	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/18

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JON BON JOVI SOUL FOUNDATION — **Solution: 9 letters**

T	I	G	N	I	H	C	I	R	N	E	H	D	M	N
C	O	M	I	O	S	T	C	E	J	O	R	P	U	O
D	L	G	P	A	I	E	D	I	M	E	R	C	R	I
C	A	E	E	R	R	N	S	E	A	I	D	J	A	T
I	T	T	A	T	O	C	V	M	D	O	O	H	L	A
T	G	I	E	(N)	H	V	N	E	O	B	W	O	S	E
Y	N	M	(E)	O	S	E	E	H	S	P	N	S	R	R
E	I	(E)	O	A	D	V	R	T	R	T	E	P	E	C
S	(D)	L	E	M	E	O	N	I	P	S	R	I	T	I
R	L	D	A	I	B	E	O	A	U	D	S	T	R	M
E	I	C	L	H	D	R	T	O	N	N	H	A	O	O
J	U	E	G	I	I	H	H	S	E	V	I	L	P	N
W	B	I	S	T	I	F	E	N	E	B	P	Q	P	O
E	E	E	Y	T	I	L	A	E	R	O	L	E	U	C
N	R	E	C	Y	C	L	I	N	G	F	L	E	S	E

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 2/19

Believe, Benefit, Camden, City, Clean, Craig, Creation, Dream, Economic, Enriching, Green Up, Home, Hope, Hospital, Houses, Ideas, Improve, Invest, Jobs, Lives, Murals, Need, Neighborhood, New Jersey, Ownership, Path, Pride, Priority, Projects, Reality, Rebuilding, Recycling, Residents, Role, School, Self, Supporters, Time, Together, Unique

Yesterday's Answer: Fees

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Mayflower Steel Co.

Low Price to Sell
- 1/2"-4" G.I. Pipe
- 8'-20' Roofing Tin

Tel: 670-234-1688 • Cell: 670-285-8996

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Sunset Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT Solution:
Topless dancer

The Financial & Insurance Services Group, Inc.

VEHICLE FOR SALE

AS IS CONDITION: NO WARRANTIES EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED

2004 TOYOTA COROLLA CE 4-DOOR SEDAN

(AUTOMATIC, POWER WINDOWS, POWER LOCKS, POWER STEERING, AND POWER BRAKES)

The Financial & Insurance Services Group, Inc. (FISG) is now accepting sealed bids on the above mentioned vehicle. The vehicle can be inspected at our main office located in the Cabrera Center Bldg. on Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

FISG reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. All vehicle are sold "AS IS" with no Warranties, Expressed or Implied.

Deadline for bidding is on Friday, February 26, 2010.

For more information, contact Diego Masga, Collection Department at 234-5706 or 234-8615

QQ RENT A CAR

Starting as low as... $25.00

Call: 233-9889 or 483-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

CAREFREE LAWN CLEANING SERVICE 285-6640

POI Aviation

A TanHoldings Company

Passenger Service Agent

Our company provides a wide range of ground handling services for both private as well as commercial aircrafts. We are currently in need of a Passenger Service Agent with the following requirements:

- Korean or Nihongo speaking
- Minimum of High School Diploma or GED certificate
- Must possess customer service experience and excellent interpersonal skills
- Must be computer literate and able to handle up to 70 lbs. of baggage
- Must be legally eligible for employment in the United States

The successful candidate will be responsible for providing service and assistance to airline passengers. His/her job will entail handling reservations and passenger check-ins including the examination of passenger documentation to determine destinations and to assign boarding passes.

Interested applicants may send their resume to:
thchr@tanholdings.com

POI is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Marianas Maid Services

Are you overwhelmed at work?
Has taking care of your kids and the housework become a burden?
LET US MAKE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE
SPARKLE
Cleaning services starting as low as $40 per cleaning.
All equipment and cleaning supplies provided.
All our staff has been hand picked and are reliable.
Ironing, Laundry, Window washing and many other services available.
Contact Julie at 287-6542 to schedule an appointment.

FOR INQUIRIES:
Please call MMC office at 235-8980
OLEAI-CENTER COMMERCIAL SPACES
FOR LEASE

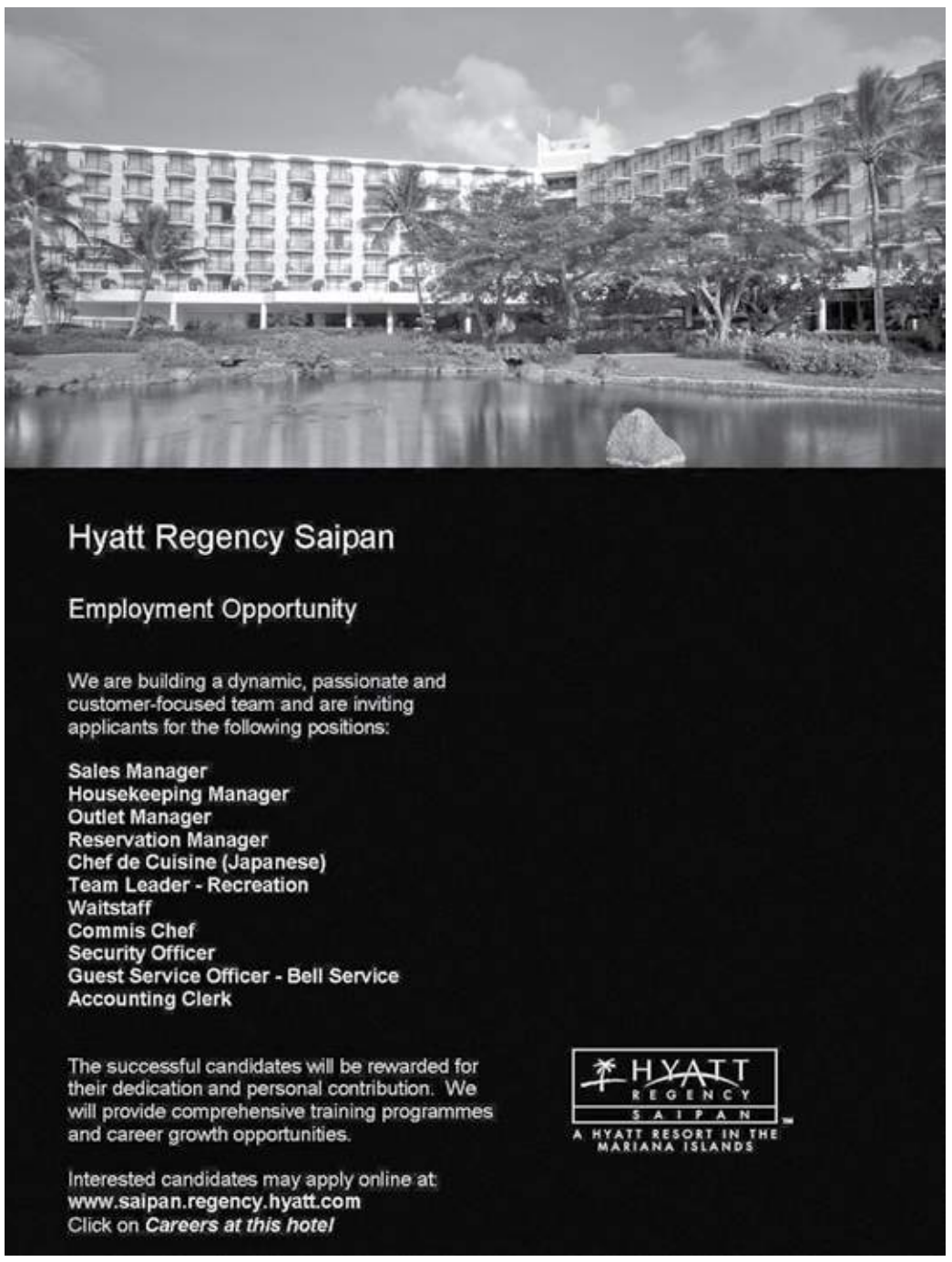
WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

DANCER

© 2010 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers Distributed by Universal Uclick

Find today's solution in this section


Hyatt Regency Saipan
Employment Opportunity
We are building a dynamic, passionate and customer-focused team and are inviting applicants for the following positions:
Sales Manager
Housekeeping Manager
Outlet Manager
Reservation Manager
Chef de Cuisine (Japanese)
Team Leader - Recreation
Waitstaff
Commis Chef
Security Officer
Guest Service Officer - Bell Service
Accounting Clerk
The successful candidates will be rewarded for their dedication and personal contribution. We will provide comprehensive training programmes and career growth opportunities.
HYATT REGENCY SAIPAN
A HYATT RESORT IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS
Interested candidates may apply online at:
www.saipan.regency.hyatt.com
Click on Careers at this hotel

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-006

"INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS FOR SAIPAN SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting Competitive Sealed Bids for **INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS FOR SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL.**

The Scope of Work is available beginnning February 19, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. Faxed request maybe sent to 664-3791.

Bids should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-006"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than **March 05, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.,** at which time, bids will be publictly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: **robert.florian@pss.cnmi.mp**

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-007

"MULTI-PURPOSE STAGE FOR KAGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting Competitive Sealed Bids for the CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTI-PURPOSE STAGE FOR KAGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. The Scope of Work and plans are available starting February 12, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of $44.00.

There will be a Mandatory Pre-Onsite Meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. at Kagman Elementary School. Bids submitted from bidders who did not attend this meeting will not be accepted.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Rommel S. Mostales, Acting CIP Coordinator, via fax # (670) 664-3715. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: mostales@pss.cnmi.mp.

Bids should be placed in sealed envelope marked "IFB 10-007" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than 9:00 A.M., March 10, 2010 at which time bids will be publicly opened. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 10-004

"SYSTEMS NETWORK HEALTH ASSESSMENT"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested to "Perform a Network Health Assessment for the Public School System (PSS)." Detailed information on the scope of work is available beginning February 05, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol HIll, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. at the COE Conference Room, 3rd floor Retirement Fund Building. Questions must be in writing and addressed to Joe Torres, E-rate Coordinator via fax to 670.6643791 or e-mail to torresj@pss.cnmi.mp no later than February 26, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 10-004" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Tuesday, March 02, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

AP

Lindsey Vonn of the United States, the gold medal winner, center, celebrates with her compatriot Julia Mancuso, silver, left, and Austria's bronze medalist Elisabeth Goergl during the medal ceremony for the Women's downhill at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia, Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010.

US has near-perfect day with 6 medals, three gold

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—The U.S. Olympic team came into the day with high expectations and surpassed those lofty goals, grabbing six medals—half of them gold.

The big names justified the hype, and then some: Lindsey, Shani and Shaun won in convincing fashion. And their less-heralded counterparts were just as impressive.

The six medals were the most in one day by the U.S. at a Winter Olympics, topping the five earned Feb. 20, 2002, in Salt Lake City.

Lindsey Vonn won the women's downhill days after she feared a painful shin injury might knock her out of the games, as the sport's most dominant skier finally got that elusive Olympic medal. And teammate Julia Mancuso, who won gold in the giant slalom in 2006 but had been hindered by injuries ever since, was a surprise silver medalist.

"This is everything I've wanted and hoped for," Vonn said.

Shani Davis and Shaun White became the third and fourth American men to win an event in back-to-back games.

With a sizzling final lap, Davis became the first speedskater to win the men's 1,000 meters twice. Chad Hedrick, who took home three medals at the 2006 games, earned an unlikely bronze in an event he doesn't consider his strength.

Having already clinched victory with a big score in his first run, White thrilled the crowd by capping his second run with his signature trick, the risky 3 1/2 twists and two flips of the Double McTwist 1260. Scotty Lago took bronze to give the United States multiple medals on the halfpipe for the last three Olympics.

WOMEN'S DOWNHILL

Since getting hurt in practice two weeks ago, Vonn spent more time with Austrian curd cheese smeared on her shin than being on the slopes. Several weather delays bought her time and kept her competition from getting too comfortable on this course.

She kicked out of the gate strong, building a quick lead and building on it. Just when it seemed she might lose control, she regained her form and kept charging toward the finish. A small bump just before the finish cost her a few ticks, but she still wound up winning by 0.56 seconds.

"I fought the whole way down," she said. "It wasn't a perfect run. I attacked, and I made it down."

Maria Riesch of Germany, Vonn's best friend and usual rival of late, finished eighth.

The course was tough, as evidenced by all the crashes. Swedish standout Anja Paerson went down hard, and another competitor had to be airlifted out. Yet another crashed across the finish line and disappeared under a logo of a skier; in trying to get up, she stuck out one ski, making for a bizarre image.

The only times Americans took gold and silver in an Alpine race both happened at the 1984 Sarajevo Games, with brothers Phil and Steve Mahre going 1-2 in the slalom and Debbie Armstrong and Christin Cooper doing so in giant slalom.

Vonn will be favored in two more races. It remains to be seen how much this event took out of her—or if it's the start of a Phelps-like domination.

"I have what I want, and I'll just keep fighting every day," she said. "It's definitely a huge relief that I finally did it."

SPEEDSKATING

Shani Davis didn't come close to a medal in his first two events at these Olympics, but he came through in the 1,000, an event in which he holds the world record. With an impressive final kick, he edged South Korea's Mo Tae-bum, who won the 500 and whose early pace Davis struggled to match.

Davis even shared the podium with Chad Hedrick again after the other American hopeful took the bronze. Davis and Hedrick had a nasty feud at the 2006 Turin Games, but both appeared in good spirits after Wednesday's race. Davis and Hedrick finished second and third in the 1,500 in Turin.

"When you're a world champion or an Olympic champion, you get this little thing on your back called a target," Davis said. "To go out there and win the 1,000 meters twice is truly amazing."

SNOWBOARDING

Shaun White's final run was a formality. At times, his entire event seemed like one.

White secured the win on his first run without trying the signature trick. He scored 48.4 points to Finland's Peetu Piiroinen's 45.0.

"I just felt like I didn't come all the way to Vancouver not to pull out the big guns," White said.

The American men and women have taken 12 of the 21 halfpipe medals awarded since the sport came to the Olympics in 1998.

SHORT TRACK

Apolo Anton Ohno easily advanced through the preliminaries of the 1,000, staying on course to surpass Bonnie Blair as the most decorated U.S. Winter Olympian.

Ohno, who won his sixth Olympic medal in the 1,500 Saturday, was third most of the way. Then, in the closing laps, he moved up to second before using a smooth inside move to take the lead over China's Liang Wenhao.

From there, Ohno cruised to the finish line well ahead of the others to advance to the semifinals later Wednesday.

Ohno also joined J.R. Celski, Simon Cho and Travis Jayner in qualifying for the 5,000 relay final on Saturday.

Wang Meng of China easily won her second consecutive gold medal in the women's 500 meters. She led all the way after surviving a restart and a false start in the four-woman final.

Wang cruised home well ahead of Canada's Marianne St-Gelais, who took silver. Arianna Fontana of Italy earned the bronze.

MEN'S HOCKEY

With an assist on Finland's opening goal in a 5-1 victory over Belarus, Teemu Selanne matched the record for most career points in the Olympics.

Selanne has 20 goals and 16 assists in five Olympics. Also with 36: Valeri Kharlamov of Russia, Vlastimil Bubnik of the former Czechoslovakia and Harry Watson of Canada.

There were initial concerns Selanne would not be able to play because of surgery last month for a broken jaw. He returned Feb. 1 and played seven games for Anaheim.

Defending champion Sweden shook off a slow start as Mattias Ohlund and Loui Eriksson scored in the second period to help beat Germany 2-0.

The Swedes did not have a shot on net until midway through the scoreless first period in their Vancouver Games opener.

And in the night's final game, Jaromir Jagr, out of the NHL for two years and now a role player rather than one of hockey's big names, scored a goal and set up another late in the second period and the Czech Republic repeated its 2006 Olympic hockey victory over rival Slovakia by winning 3-1.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

So much for Canada's first real test.

Meghan Agosta had three goals and two assists, Hayley Wickenheiser became the leading goal-scorer in Olympic history, and Canada routed the toughest opponent in its preliminary-round group, beating Sweden 13-1.

Wickenheiser got her 16th Olympic goal among her five points as the Canadians cruised into the semifinals with three victories by a combined 41-2.

Stefanie Marty and Sara Benz scored 43 seconds apart midway through the third period, and Switzerland scored four times in the final 9 1/2 minutes of a 5-2 victory over Slovakia.

CROSS-COUNTRY

A mile-long sprint came down to a few inches, with Russia's Nikita Kriukov getting the front of his ski across the finish line just ahead of countryman Alexander Panzhinskiy in the men's individual classic cross-country sprint race. A photo finish was needed to determine the winner.

In the women's individual sprint, Norway's Marit Bjoergen pulled away at the end for her first gold medal after winning two silvers at previous Olympics and a bronze in the 10K race Monday.

Pre-race favorite Petra Majdic of Slovenia hurt her ribs in a training crash early Wednesday, but managed to salvage a bronze. She collapsed immediately after crossing the finish line.

LUGE

Austrian brothers Andreas and Wolfgang Linger won their second straight gold medal in doubles luge.

The Lingers completed their two runs in 1 minute, 22.705 seconds. Andris and Juris Sics of Latvia finished in 1:22.969 and won silver, and Germany's Patric Leitner and Alexander Resch took bronze with a time of 1:23.404.

It was just the second time a doubles team won in consecutive Olympics. Germany's Hans Rinn and Norbert Hahn did it in 1976 and 1980.

CURLING

The U.S. women fell to 0-2, losing to Germany when skip Debbie McCormick's squad couldn't make up a two-point deficit in the final end.

The men fell to 0-3 with a 7-6 loss to Switzerland.

OLYMPIC CAULDRON

Want an unobstructed picture of the Olympic cauldron? Not a problem any more.

Organizers of the Vancouver Games opened a viewing ramp Wednesday to bring visitors closer to the Olympic cauldron. A chain-link fence around the flame also was moved closer, with a 6-inch-wide strip cut into it for people taking pictures from ground level.

Olympic organizers initially drew criticism for making the flame inaccessible to the public. It was one of a series of glitches that have marred the opening days of the Winter Games.

DEFENDING THE GAMES

The head of the Vancouver Olympics isn't so fond of talk about these being the Glitch Games.

Despite mechanical failures ranging from the cauldron at the opening ceremony to an ice-resurfacing machine, ticket cancellations, weather woes and more, VANOC CEO John Furlong says the problems are being fixed and the games are inspiring euphoria across the country.

He also acknowledged, "When we make mistakes, we have to fix them," such as opening access to the cauldron.

TV RATINGS

The gold for U.S. TV viewership on Tuesday night went to "American Idol."

Fox's talent show was watched by 23.6 million viewers, far ahead of the 19.7 million viewers for the Olympics coverage.

Once "Idol" ended, Olympic viewership grew to 20.3 million.

Just NBC's luck, Tuesday was the first day of the Vancouver Olympics that an American did not win a medal.

Newcomer fires Mavericks over Suns

DALLAS (AP)—Dallas newcomer Caron Butler started a key third-quarter run that led to the Dallas Mavericks' 107-97 win over the Phoenix Suns in Wednesday's clash of two NBA Western Conference contenders.

Butler, acquired from Washington in a seven-player deal Saturday, scored 15 points and hit a jumper to open a 16-4 run in the third.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 28 points for Dallas, which maintained a one-game lead in the Southwest Division.

Amare Stoudemire, mentioned in trade rumors in recent days, had 30 points and 14 rebounds for the Suns, who had their five-game road winning streak snapped.

Jazz 98, Hornets 90

In New Orleans, Paul Millsap scored 24 points on 11 of 13 shooting as Utah downed New Orleans.

Carlos Boozer scored six of his 16 points in the last 3:06, and added 15 rebounds for the Jazz, who crept within one game of Northwest-leading Denver.

The Hornets were led by rookie Darren Collison, who had 24 points and nine assists.

Magic 116, Pistons 91

In Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had a season-high 33 points and added 17 rebounds to help Orlando beat Detroit.

The reigning Defensive Player of the Year added seven blocks in a dominating performance. He was also 11 for 13 on free throws — a refreshing change from his normal woes.

Vince Carter finished with 20 points for the Magic.

Grizzlies 109, Raptors 102, OT

In Toronto, Rudy Gay scored eight of his 29 points in overtime to help Memphis edge Toronto and snap a five-game losing streak.

Zach Randolph had 24 points and 11 rebounds for Memphis.

Chris Bosh had 32 points and 10 rebounds for Toronto, which lost its first home game in nine.

Hawks 110, Clippers 92

In Los Angeles, Al Horford scored a career-high 31 points in his 200th NBA game and Atlanta handed Los Angeles its sixth straight loss.

Josh Smith had 20 points and nine rebounds, and Joe Johnson added 18 points for Atlanta. Chris Kaman had 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Clippers, who are winless in five games since Kim Hughes replaced Mike Dunleavy as head coach.

Rockets 127, Bucks 99

In Milwaukee, Trevor Ariza hit a career-high six 3-pointers, scoring 22 points and lifting Houston to a comfortable win over Milwaukee.

In all, Houston hit 16 shots from beyond the arc — one short of the franchise record. Shane Battier was 6 of 6 from 3-point range, one short of his career high, and finished with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

The 127 points was a season high for the Rockets, who also shot a season-best 57.5 percent from the field.

Spurs 90, Pacers 87

In Indianapolis, Tony Parker came back from injury to score 28 points and lead San Antonio to a tight victory over Indiana.

Parker has missed the final game before the All-Star break with a strained hip flexor.

Tim Duncan had just eight points on 4-for-23 shooting, but had 26 rebounds and five assists for the Spurs.

Bulls 115, Knicks 109

In New York, Derrick Rose scored 27 points as Chicago downed New York.

Luol Deng added 23 for the Bulls, wh ocame from 15 points down to move above .500 at 27-26 and hand the Knicks their fifth straight loss.

Heat 87, Nets 84

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Miami overcame the early loss of All-Star MVP Dwyane Wade to beat New Jersey for its season-high fourth straight victory.

Wade strained his left calf in the first quarter and did not return. He finished with eight points, snapping his streak of 148 straight games in double figures, the second-longest active streak in the NBA behind LeBron James (255).

Warriors 130, Kings 98

In Oakland, California, C.J. Watson scored a career-high 40 points as Golden State routed Sacramento.

Watson scored 23 points in the first half, matching his season high for a game, and made 15 of his first 16 shots. He also had seven rebounds and six assists.

Stephen Curry had a career-best 15 assists for Golden State to complement 24 points and six rebounds.

Wizards 108, Timberwolves 99

In Washington, Andray Blatche, a last-minute substitution for Antawn Jamison, scored a career-high 33 points and had 13 rebounds for Washington in the win over Minnesota.

The Wizard traded Jamison to Cleveland after the game in a three-team swap that sent Drew Gooden to the Los Angeles Clippers. Washington received Cavaliers center Zydrunas Ilgauskas, a 2010 first-round draft pick and the rights to Emir Preldzic, who was selected in the second round of last year's draft from Cleveland.

The Wizards also received forward Al Thornton from Los Angeles. Cleveland received guard Sebastian Telfair from the Clippers.

Cavaliers get Jamison from Wizards

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James has a new All-Star sidekick.

The Cleveland Cavaliers acquired Antawn Jamison from Washington on Wednesday night, the forward they hope will fit in between James and Shaquille O'Neal on a championship front line.

Jamison was the centerpiece of a three-team deal that also sent Drew Gooden to the Los Angeles Clippers.

Washington received Cavaliers center Zydrunas Ilgauskas, a 2010 first-round draft pick and the rights to Emir Preldzic, who was selected in the second round of last year's draft from Cleveland.

The Wizards also received forward Al Thornton from Los Angeles.

Cleveland gets guard Sebastian Telfair from the Clippers.

"Antawn is a great pro. We are very excited to have an experienced all-star player of Antawn's caliber and character join us," Cavaliers general manager Danny Ferry said in a statement announcing the trade. "He has the ability to add a special, unique dimension to our team with a strong inside presence and the ability to stretch teams defensively, while impacting the entire court."

The Cavaliers had long coveted an athletic power forward who could play on the perimeter after they were eliminated by the Orlando Magic in last year's Eastern Conference finals.

They had reportedly been involved in trade talks with Phoenix for Amare Stoudemire, but instead ended up with another former All-Star.

Jamison, who had been with the Wizards since 2004, is averaging 20.5 points this season. He was not in uniform for Washington's game with Minnesota on Wednesday.

"Antawn Jamison has been the embodiment of leadership on and off the court for this franchise for five-and-a-half seasons and we thank him for all he has done for the Wizards and the city of Washington," Wizards president Ernie Grunfeld said. "Unfortunately, our on-court results have not met our expectations and we felt it was necessary to make changes to improve our future and our financial flexibility. This trade accomplished both of those objectives."

Jamison left the arena shortly before the game. As he entered his car, he said to reporters: "Not now."

He did have a message for Wizards fans: "You know I love them more than they love me."

Betting odds steady for Pacquiao

BOXING

MANILA, Philippines—He's the shorter, lighter guy, but as far as fight fans are concerned Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao towers over Ghanaian challenger Joshua Clottey.

Betting odds for the Pacquiao-Clottey showdown for the World Boxing Organization welterweight crown on March 13 at the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, continued to tilt in favor of the Filipino pound-for-pound king, according to Gambling911.com.

With less than four weeks to go before the fight, billed as "The Event," SportsInteractive.com put Pacquiao as a minus-556 favorite and Clottey a plus-300 underdog.

This means that a P556 bet on Pacquiao will earn just P100 if he wins, while a P100 winning bet on Cotto will net P300.

Sportsbetting.com, on the other hand, put Pacquiao—the only boxer to win seven world titles in as many divisions—at minus-500 and Clottey at plus-350.

There was little difference in the figures provided by Bookmaker.com which put Pacquiao at minus-440 and Clottey at plus-350.

The 33-year-old Clottey, however, seems unaffected by the little respect being accorded him, saying he knows how to handle southpaws like Pacquiao.

The Ghanaian said he has been training hard and ready to "shock the world" with an upset victory.

In a recent Kristal Hart show interview, Clottey (35-3 with 20 knockouts) said he will throw a lot of stiff jabs to prevent Pacquiao (50-3-2, 38 KOs) from digging in and unleashing his power punches at short range.

Champion Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, poses for a photograph during a news conference on Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010, in New York, to promote an upcoming fight against Joshua Clottey .

AP

Donaire stops Vargas in third round

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Nonito Donaire knocked out late replacement Manuel Vargas in the third round Saturday to retain the WBA interim super flyweight championship.

The Filipino controlled the bout throughout before flooring Vargas for good with a solid right uppercut at 1:33 in the third.

"It was a matter of relaxing and working my game plan," Donaire said. "I went side to side, leading with the jab, then landed that hard uppercut."

Donaire had been scheduled to fight Gerson Guerrero, who failed a pre-fight physical and his fellow Mexican Vargas stepped in.

"It was a crazy week," Donaire said. "It didn't matter who I fought, I simply tried to figure him out."

On the undercard, WBO bantamweight champion Fernando Montiel knocked out Ciso Morales at 2:06 of the first round with two devastating body shots. Morales hit the canvas in obvious pain and was unable to beat the count.

Eric Morel earned a split-decision victory against Gerry Penalosa in a WBO interim bantamweight title fight. The judges scored it 115-113 and 116-112 in favor of Morel and 115-113 for Penalosa.

LADY

From Page 36

Yamada's point, she rushed to their court and hugged the rest of his teammates, celebrating their finals sweep.

MHS won the opening set by five points, 25-20, and then moved a set away from ending the series with a 25-18 victory in the second set.

"I told the girls to play aggressive from start to finish and they did what they were told," coach Tyce Mister said.

"We know GCA is a strong team, as they beat the top seed SIS in the semis, so we have to start right to get our momentum going," Mister added.

Joining Yamada on the winning team were Melody Johnson, Glorily Williams, Lena Guzman, Shelly Sablan, Dalena Aldan, Rikka Kaijo, and Gabriella Palacios. The Lady Dolphins practiced three times a week before the volleyball event started and then made it a two times a week training when the league began.

MHS fielded two teams in the league, but the other Lady Dolphins finished only fifth in the regular season and lost to the Lady Eagles in the first round of the playoffs 25-15, 25-10, 15-5.

MHS 1, which placed second to SIS in the regular season, then avenged its sister team's loss to GCA with a finals series sweep. MHS also swept Kagman High School in the semifinals, 25-23, 25-15, 15-12, to arrange a title tiff against the Lady Eagles. GCA stunned SIS in the other semis pairing, 25-23, 25-23, on Tuesday.

CADAGAT

From Page 36

Cadagat was a bit gun shy when he dribbled toward the left key, prepared to pull up for another triple, but elected to make an entry pass to Alex Lauron in the paint.

Lauron was not expecting the feed and missed his shot. There was a battle for the rebound with Pepsi's Charles Cepeda fighting for the ball against two McGraw-Hill defenders. A held ball was called and the possession arrow pointed to McGraw-Hill.

With 15 seconds left in the game, Peter Mendiola, seeing players crowding the backcourt, went for a baseball pitch to Marlon Cabrera. However, Cabrera was not squared off for the long pass with Jojo Garon chasing him at the frontcourt. Mendiola's pass missed Cabrera's hands and Garon tried to screen out the latter from retrieving the ball near the McGraw-Hill's bench.

Cadagat, who had already sprinted to Mc-Graw Hill's frontcourt, then told Garon to pick up the leather instead of letting it out to the sideline. After having second thoughts, Garon took the ball and passed it to Cadagat, who then pulled up for a triple from the top of the key and made the basket, putting Pepsi in the lead, 98-97.

With six seconds left in the game, McGraw-Hill had one timeout left, but opted not to use it and instead rushed to their frontcourt for the game's last shot. Emily Matson, the lone female player in the league, pulled up for a 12-footer from the right key, but missed, handing McGraw-Hill a disappointing loss.

McGraw-Hill was in control of the game, leading by as much as 14 in the third period, until Cadagat drilled the two crucial treys.

Mendiola top-scored for Mc-Graw Hill with 41 points.

In the first game, Mobil drew at least 20 points from its three players to down Hard Rock Café, 100-88.

Gyles Ruluked tallied 25 points, Brian Ajoste chipped in 24, and Manolo Manalo added 20.

Ajoste exploded for 12 points in the first period, giving Mobil a 31-15 lead. He added seven more as Mobil hung on to the lead at the break, 50-44.

In the second half, it was Ruluked's turn to carry the team, as he scored 14 markers in the third period, which ended with Mobil still ahead, 75-69. Manalo then took over in the fourth canto, hitting 11 points to give Mobil its first win after losing its debut against TBK, 78-84.

First Game

Mobil 100 – Ruluked 25, Ajost 24, Manalo 20, Jose 10, Jalonila 6, Torres 5, Demapan 4, Lejano 2, Deocares 2, Brecia 2.

Hard Rock 88 – Tengco 37, Paraiso 26, Tiamzon 8, Dionisio 4, Mendoza 3, Lagrio 3, Nunag 3, Besmonte 2, Alcantara 2.

Scoring by quarters: 31-15, 50-44, 75-69, 100-88.

Second Game

Pepsi 98 – Cadagat 44, Lauron 24, Lansang 10, Garon 10, Cepeda 7, Obnimaga 2.

McGraw-Hill 97 – Mendiola 41, Villagomez 15, Buniag 11, Mendez 11, Diaz 8, Cabrera 6, Matson 4, Merar 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-26, 43-49, 67-77, 98-97.

LIFE

From Page 36

boys on a carefree weekend. When he's finally found, he's beyond rescuing.

Chinese garment workers are frolicking in the waves. The current pulls them out. They don't know how to swim. Three drown.

A nun comes from Viet Nam and drowns not very far from the Cathedral.

A man, accompanied by his 10-yearold son, visits Saipan where his father works as a doctor. After checking into the hotel, the father and boy go swimming at Sugar Dock. The man drowns while the boy holds onto his body for dear life and survives. The man's father arrives to find his son lifeless.

It's not only Sugar Dock that can turn into a fatal attraction.

A Filipino farmer drowns while spear-fishing on the reef off Micro Beach, leaving behind two young children and a wife.

Korean students adventure out to Forbidden Island, a rough jewel too aptly named because of other tragedies that have occurred there, yet enticing because of its raw rugged beauty. A big wave comes over the reef. Five are swept out to sea and drown.

A fisherman drowns off Marine Beach. Another one at Marpi. A tourist drowns off Micro Beach while his 13-year-old daughter sits on the beach. Another tourist walking on the reef at Hidden Beach is swept out to sea by a big wave and drowns.

Another tourist drowns off Unai Dankulu. And one at Lao Lao.

I cannot even remember how many people have drowned at Managaha.

Every case is a tragedy because in retrospection, it seems like it didn't have to happen. Often the following day the sea calms and surf subsides. Looking out at tranquil waters, one is left with theories and questions that don't really matter compared to the cold hard reality that connects life and death. It's always too late.

Go ahead and enjoy Saipan's beautiful waters. Just be extraordinarily careful these days as brisk trade winds blow, bringing strong currents and surprising waves.

It's a matter of life and breath.

NMASA

From Page 36

is here to stay. Previously, it was called the Tan Holdings Foundation. It had been reworked and renamed last summer to reflect the name of our founder, Dr. Tan Siu Lin. With this renaming, there comes a great deal of responsibility in selecting the most caring, wide reaching, and project oriented programs and organizations. NMASA is one of these organizations, and we look forward to working with them and having this joint-award with them for many years to come. We want this to be the best student athlete award in the region, and with all the motivated and creative people involved in the community, NMASA, and the TSL Foundation, this program will be one of the leaders in the region," Arriola said.

The renaming of the NMASA awards for student-athletes was launched during the 2009 NMASA Annual Awards Banquet on Tuesday at the Seaside Hall of the Saipan Grand Hotel.

The foundation unveiled the logo for the awards and gave medals to its first recipients, junior tennis player Mikayla Lopez and youth bowler Raphael Zapanta. Every month, student awardees will receive medals and gift certificates from the foundation.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan was present at the launching and banquet to hand the award to Zapanta and Lopez. He later encouraged youth athletes to always strive for the best and remain fit and healthy through involvement in sports.

NMASA president Michael White said the association is elated with its new partner in promoting sports and pushing for sports excellence. He added he hopes with this new partnership, youth athletes will work harder to continue bringing honor to the CNMI and their respective sport.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	33	18	.647	-
Toronto	29	24	.547	5
Philadelphia	20	33	.377	14
New York	19	34	.358	15
New Jersey	5	49	.093	29 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	37	18	.673	-
Atlanta	34	18	.654	1 1/2
Miami	28	27	.509	9
Charlotte	26	26	.500	9 1/2
Washington	18	33	.353	17

Central Division

Cleveland	43	11	.796	-
Chicago	27	26	.509	15 1/2
Milwaukee	24	28	.462	18
Detroit	19	34	.358	23 1/2
Indiana	18	35	.340	24 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	33	21	.611	-
San Antonio	31	21	.596	1
Houston	28	25	.528	4 1/2
New Orleans	28	26	.519	5
Memphis	27	26	.509	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	35	18	.660	-
Utah	34	19	.642	1
Oklahoma City	31	21	.596	3 1/2
Portland	32	24	.571	4 1/2
Minnesota	13	42	.236	23

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	42	13	.764	-
Phoenix	32	23	.582	10
L.A. Clippers	21	33	.389	20 1/2
Sacramento	18	36	.333	23 1/2
Golden State	15	38	.283	26

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 116, Detroit 91
Memphis 109, Toronto 102, OT
San Antonio 90, Indiana 87
Washington 108, Minnesota 99
Miami 87, New Jersey 84
Chicago 115, New York 109
Houston 127, Milwaukee 99
Utah 98, New Orleans 90
Dallas 107, Phoenix 97
Atlanta 110, L.A. Clippers 92
Golden State 130, Sacramento 98

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S CAGING STANDINGS

MBI	3	0
Fiesta Resort	2	0
TBK	2	0
Advance	2	0
Aqua Resort	2	0
Shirley's	1	1
Mobil	1	1
Pepsi	1	2
Hard Rock	0	2
McGraw-Hill	0	2
AON/NJ Plus	0	2
Bank of Guam	0	2
Cell Pro	0	2
Pacific Islands Club	0	0
Docomo/SGH	0	0

Strikers pound Bowlers in Navy Hill caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Strikers had a walk in the park against the Bowlers, notching an 85-43 victory during their game in the 2010 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League on Wednesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

With the way the Bowlers started the game and ran their offense all throughout the night, it was easy for the Strikers to wrap up the match.

The Bowlers scored only nine markers in the first period, while Strikers tripled that output to take a 27-9 lead after 10 minutes of play. James Camacho scored nine straight points in the first period to give the Strikers a rousing start.

In the second quarter, the Strikers more than tripled the Bowlers' production to post a 48-15 halftime lead. Camacho tallied only four points in the second canto, but drew help from his teammates to widen the gap further.

The Strikers increased the lead in the last two quarters with Camacho still at the forefront of the team's offensive set. Camacho finished with 23 points and had seven teammates scoring at least six points apiece. Edwin Cabaddu chipped in 14 and Gilbert Cabaddu added 10.

The Bowlers improved their shooting a bit in the second half, making 13 points in the third period and 15 in the last quarter. However, most of their baskets in the final canto were garbage points, as the Strikers had already let their guards down in the fourth period.

Only Orly Ebuen finished in double figures for the Bowlers with 10 points.

There are 14 teams battling for this year's Navy Hill caging championship. Joining the Strikers and Bowlers in the race are Q Rent, Pacific, DL Cooking, NVM, Managaha, Sparks, Grillin, Tropical Laundry, Star Water, Lyn's BBQ, Viel's, Navy Hill, Mutombo, Rollers, Koi Bar, and Torch Bearers.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Strikers' Joey Almedin is hemmed in by two Bowlers defenders during their game in the Navy Hill caging on Wednesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Strikers 85 – Camacho 23, E. Cabaddu 14, G. Cabaddu 10, Mosley 8, Rey. Corotan 7, Macoto 6, Viola 6, Banayat 6, Esaluche 4, Res. Corotan 2.

Bowlers 43 – Ebuen 10, Gonzales 8, Sevilla 7, Leong 5, Chinen 5, Angeles 3, Moscoso 2, Liberato 2, Ancheta 2, Tenorio 1.

Scoring by quarters: 27-9, 48-15, 61-28, 85-43.

SPG golf qualifiers to start Feb. 28

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A series of qualifying tournaments will be held starting on Feb. 28 to choose golfers who will represent the CNMI to the XIV Pacific Games in New Caledonia next year.

Veteran golfer Jess Wabol is in charge of organizing the qualifying tournaments and said the selection process will be done in two stages. The first qualifier will be held at Coral Ocean Point with check-in time at 11am and tee time at 12pm.

Wabol said the first stage will involve four to eight rounds of golf tournaments. In the first part, golfers to make it to the Top 12 will advance to the second phase. Only the gross scores will be counted in the rankings.

In the second phase, a few more rounds will be played to determine the Top 5 players who will earn spots on the CNMI Golf Team.

The last time the Commonwealth sent a golf team to the Pacific Games was in 2003 during the 12th edition of the quadrennial meet in Fiji. Wabol was part of the team, which was also composed of Joseph Camacho, Joji Taguchi, and Ed Peters. Wabol also represented the CNMI to the Mini Games held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, last year.

Wabol said they are hoping to finalize the members of the team early so they can concentrate on fund-raising activities and training sessions next year.

Next year's Pacific Games will run from Aug. 27 to September 10, in Noumea.

Thirty sports are proposed for the Games. However, only a maximum of 28 sports, among which 12 are compulsory, will be selected for next year's meet. The 12 compulsory sports are golf, athletics, basketball, beach volleyball, football, golf, weightlifting, swimming, Rugby 7, lawn tennis, table tennis, va'a (canoe racing), and indoor volleyball.

Others on the regular list are badminton, baseball, cricket, body building, cycling, power lifting, judo, karate, squash, taekwondo, surfing, shooting target, archery, triathlon, and sailing.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jess Wabol, seen here in action in a local tournament last year, announced that a series of qualifying tournaments will be held to select players who will represent the CNMI to next year's Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

SASC sets bike clinic tomorrow at Gold's Gym

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon just around the corner, Saipan Adventure Sports Club is holding a bike clinic to help athletes prepare for next month's races.

"This is mainly mountain biking, but many principles will be helpful for road bikes as well. If individuals only have road bikes, I encourage them to bring them, as we will help them adjust and fine-tune the bikes. The first part of the clinic will be good for all bikers. When we head over to the Bike Shop to ride the off road trail, that will be for mountain bikers," SASC president Russ Quinn said.

The clinic will run from 8am to 12pm tomorrow at the Gold's Gym.

Facilitators prepared topics for discussion and application in the five-hour session. The list includes the gear needed to get started; learning to adjust the bike to fit the rider better; a spin class that helps teach proper pedaling techniques; and a practical course ride at pro autoglass single track.

"We held a bike clinic last year, and it was well received. We saw many beginner riders come out and learn techniques from some of Saipan's top riders. That being said, this bike clinic will have something for everybody," Quinn said.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bikers head up to Papago during the 2009 Hell of the Marianas Century Race. SASC is holding a bike clinic to help riders prepare for future races, such as the Hell of Marianas.

One of the participants of last year's clinic was SASC board member Rex Kosack, who attributed his new found confidence in biking to the clinic.

"I was just getting into biking last year and this clinic really helped me become a better rider. Having experienced riders show you their secrets really help you feel comfortable on your bike," Kosack said.

Quinn said SASC thought of holding bike clinics, as the sport has become popular on the island with various organizations holding races all throughout the year. Among them are next month's XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon. Also on the list are the Hell of Marianas, Northern Passage, Tough Love and other pre-tournament races, such as the series of Enticers SASC is holding.

Registration fee for tomorrow's clinic is only $10. However, entrance fee is free for those who will sign up for membership with SASC on the same day of the clinic. Participants are asked to bring mountain/road bikes, helmet, and biking clothes.

For more information, contact Quinn at saipanruss@yahoo.com.

6 teams to vie for SML championship

The Budweiser Saipan Major League baseball competition will kick off its 2010 season tonight at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield with six teams vying for this year's championship.

Leading the list are the defending champion Rangers, who will play in the opening night against D-9ers in the early showdown of last season's finalists. The Rangers and D-9ers rematch is set for 6:30pm after a brief opening ceremony at 6pm.

The Rangers swept the D-9ers in their best-of-five championship series last year. The Rangers also took the pennant in 2009 with their impressive 11-2 record. The Rangers' Pete Tomokane and Jesus Iguel were named most valuable players in the regular season and in the best-of-five title series, respectively.

Other teams entered in the 2010 season of the SML are Rock Steady, Falcons, Tigers, and Fielders.

Games in the SML will be played three times a week or every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Teams are asked to turn in completed roster and waiver forms, a copy of accident insurance policy, and parental consent forms for 17-and-under players before the league starts. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Strikers pound Bowlers in Navy Hill caging

PAGE 35

Saipan Tribune
Sports

US has near-perfect day with 6 medals, 3 gold

PAGE 32

Lady Dolphins sweep Eagles in v'ball finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School 1 swept its way to the championship of the girls varsity division of the 2009-2010 MISO High School Volleyball League.

The Lady Dolphins faced Grace Christian Academy's Lady Eagles in a best-of-five sets championship showdown and needed only three sets to wrap up the finals yesterday at the MHS Gymnasium.

Two errors from the Lady Eagles in the third set prompted the Lady Dolphins to celebrate their triumph in their own turf. With the score at 23-17 in the third set, there was a long rally, halted by a short return from a GCA player. The ball hit the net, moving MHS a point away from winning the finals.

Toni Kasilyn Yamada served for the match point and scored an ace when one of GCA's backliners hit the ball hard enough to head out of the backline. After

See LADY on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The MHS Lady Dolphins and their coach Tyce Mister pose with their championship trophy after beating the GCA Lady Eagles in the MISO girls varsity volleyball finals yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Cadagat treys lift Pepsi past McGraw-Hill

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bonbon Cadagat played his last game in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League and had a memorable one, hitting a triple in the closing minutes of the fourth quarter to lift Pepsi to a thrilling 98-97 win over McGraw-Hill on Wednesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Cadagat will return to the Philippines on March 2 after wowing basketball fans with his fancy moves, dribbling skills, and long triples for more than a year. He scored 44 points in his last game on Saipan and more importantly gave Pepsi its first win after two futile tries. The team's next game is on March 3 against Saipan Grand Hotel/Docomo.

Cadagat's last six points were all from beyond the arc. His first triple from the left key moved Pepsi within two, 95-97, with 36 seconds left on the clock. Pepsi fouled Lawrence Buniag to stop the clock and the gamble paid off when Buniag muffed two charities.

In Pepsi's next possession,

See CADAGAT on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Pepsi's Bonbon Cadagat looks for a teammate to pass the ball to, as he is trapped by the defense of McGraw-Hill's Jacob Villagomez, left, and Jerry Diaz, partly hidden, during their game in the Shirley's caging on Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

NMASA inks partnership with TSL Foundation

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association's monthly awards presentation received a big boost, as Tan Siu Lin Foundation decided to sponsor the awards given to female and male student-athletes.

NMASA's student awards will now be called NMASA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Male and Female Student Athlete of the Month. Monthly awardees will receive gifts from the foundation besides the recognition they get from NMASA. At the end of the year, winners of the top student athlete awards will get bigger prizes, which according to foundation manager, Ed Arriola, will be very beneficial to students.

"The idea (supporting NMASA's awards presentation) came from Jerry Tan to the Foundation last summer. It is Jerry and his father, Dr. Tan Siu Lin's vision to create more opportunities for the youth in our region, be it through education, culture, and sports," Arriola said.

"NMASA has had a great program going for years. They are the premiere sporting body in the CNMI and we feel that NMASA truly understands and nurtures the sporting community of the CNMI. The Tan Siu Lin Foundation only hopes to enhance what NMASA has been doing for years," added Arriola when asked why the foundation decided to ink a partnership with NMASA.

Arriola also vowed the foundation's tie-up with NMASA will be on a long-term basis.

"The Tan Siu Lin Foundation

See NMASA on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, left, joins the first recipients of the NMASA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Female and Male Student Athletes of the Month awards, Mikayla Lopez, and Raphael Zapanta, during the launching of the award on Tuesday at the Seaside Hall of the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Life and breath

It happens every year. Unexpectedly. Like a thief in the night. Someone drowns on Saipan unnecessarily, tragically, sadly, usually on a day meant for fun.

Sun is out. Surf is up. Blue water beckons. Then suddenly life becomes death.

Last weekend a group of people were walking on the reef at Ladder Beach. A wave knocked them down and dragged a lady out into the open water who was later rescued by boat.

Last month a tourist snorkeling off Pak Pak beach was swept over the reef and needed to be rescued.

I've lost track of how many people have drowned at Sugar Dock. Too many. There are no statistics for that particular place that I can find, but there are alarming numbers overall. According to CHC, since 1999 there have been 80 "submerged injuries" reported on Saipan, a euphemism for drowning.

A Japanese and his friend go surfing at Sugar Dock. Only one returns.

My friend's teenaged son is swimming off the dock with other

See LIFE on Page 34

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2